



michigan high school athletic association

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BULLETIN

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The Only Official Interpretations
Are Those Received In Writing

ON THE COVER

March is the busiest month of the year for MHSAA Finals, as champions are crowned in 13 team sports in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. The action concludes with the Girls Volleyball Finals March 15-17 in Kalamazoo, and the Boys Basketball Finals March 22-24 in East Lansing.

MHSAA File Photos

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Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

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Dean of Students
Williamston Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools

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Office of Administrative Law and Federal Relations,
Michigan Dept. of Education
Lansing
Designee

*Term Expires December 2008

**Term Expires December 2007

Any individual who is a representative of a member school (faculty member or Board of Education member) may become a candidate for the MHSAA Representative Council. Please contact the MHSAA Executive Director for an outline of procedures.

MHSAA Staff

Randy Allen, Assistant Director

Tony Bihn, Director of Information Systems

Jordan Cobb, Assistant Director of Information Systems

Andy Frushour, Marketing and Special Programs Coord.

Nate Hampton, Assistant Director

John R. Johnson, Communications Director

Rob Kaminski, Publications and Web Site Coordinator

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Laura Roberts, Receptionist

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Mark Uyl, Assistant Director

Jamie VanDerMoere, Administrative Assistant

Faye Verellen, Administrative Assistant

Debbie Waddell, Executive Assistant

Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, Assistant Director

Karen Yonkers, Executive Assistant

Not all the facts presented to the Executive Committee and Representative Council as part of requests to waive eligibility regulations are included in the reports of those meetings, either because of the volume of material reviewed or the confidentiality requested by schools for their students, parents or faculty.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 21, 2007

Members Present:

Paul Ellinger, Cheboygan
Keith Eldred, Williamston
William Newkirk, Meridian
Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven

Staff Members Present:

Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)

Executive Committee Authority and Responsibility – The Executive Committee reviewed its authority under Article VII of the MHSAA Constitution and specifically its responsibility to consider each application for waiver of an eligibility requirement on its individual merits, determining if the regulation serves the purpose for which it was intended in each case or if the regulation works an undue hardship on any student who is the subject of a request for waiver. (These underlying criteria may not be restated for every subject of these minutes.)

The Executive Committee was reminded that it was the responsibility of each member school involved to provide sufficient factual information about the specific request for the Executive Committee to reach a decision without further investigation. If information is incomplete, contradictory or otherwise unclear or has been received too late to be studied completely, the Executive Committee may deny the request for waiver or delay action. Such requests may be resubmitted to the Executive Committee with additional information at a subsequent meeting or appealed to the full Representative Council.

It is possible that some of the information presented as facts to the Executive Committee by school personnel and others may be inaccurate. However, to avoid constant repetition in this report of phrases such as "it was alleged" or "it was reported," no attempt is made in the introduction of each waiver request to distinguish between truth, allegation, hearsay, opinion, summary or conclusion. If any information provided to the

Executive Committee is inaccurate, any decision of the Executive Committee to grant waiver of a regulation shall be null and void.

The Executive Committee is not authorized to grant waiver based on alleged or actual differences between schools based on "environment," demographics, curriculum or extracurricular offerings. A determination of undue hardship is a matter addressed to the discretion of the Executive Committee within the educational philosophy and secondary role of voluntary extracurricular competitive athletics in the academic environment. The Executive Committee will avoid making exceptions that would create precedent that effectively changes a rule without Representative Council action or local board of education adoption, which would exceed Executive Committee authority. The contract the MHSAA has with member schools obligates the MHSAA to not change rules during the school year.

Students for whom waiver of a particular regulation is granted must be eligible in all other respects under all sections and interpretations of the regulations prior to their participation.

Adoption of these regulations, as well as policies, procedures and schedules of MHSAA tournaments, is a choice schools make locally when they consider their option of MHSAA membership. Consistent with rulings of the Attorney General and Michigan Supreme Court, schools are not bound by the decisions of the Executive Committee, but the association may limit participation in the postseason tournaments it sponsors to those

schools which choose to apply rules and penalties as promulgated by the MHSAA and adopted by each member school's board of education. The MHSAA exercises no independent authority over schools or students.

Alanson-Littlefield High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) - A request to waive the enrollment regulation was made to permit 8th-grade students to participate with the high school baseball and softball teams because the school's 2006-07 declared enrollment of 110 students has dropped to under 100 students. Preliminary signups for baseball and softball do not indicate that the school will have enough athletes to field a team this season. The district has lost many students through school of choice since 2001.

Consistent with previous decisions that the Executive Committee should not ignore enrollment limits established by the Representative Council, the Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Dearborn Heights-Star International Academy & Detroit-Universal Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) - The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two public school academies which are under the direction of the same superintendent but governed by separate boards. Star International Academy sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. The combined enrollment of the two schools is 393 students. This is the first and probationary year for Universal Academy which became a member school in August 2006. Support from the Southern Michigan Football Conference was received.

Flint Northwestern Academy (Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5) - A request to waive the maximum semesters portions of the eligibility regulation was submitted on behalf of an 11th-grade student who is currently in at least his eighth semester of enrollment since beginning the 9th grade in the 2003-04 school year. The transcript submitted showed nothing for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school years, although correspondence indicated the student participated in athletics. A chronological addendum stated that the student was passed into the 9th grade in 2003-04 in spite of poor academic performance and attendance caused by an orthopedic injury received in the

8th grade. The student started elementary school early, has been tested below grade level, and did not participate in athletics during the 9th grade.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver and requested staff to inquire if the student participated while ineligible during the 2003-04 or 2004-05 school year.

Stockbridge High School (Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5) - A request to waive the maximum semesters portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of a student who is in his eighth semester of enrollment since starting the 9th grade at Howell High School in August 2003. The student was enrolled for three semesters at Howell High School and struggled academically due to the death of his father. Ineligible for athletics and unable to recover academically, the student was enrolled for two semesters at the Howell-Renaissance Alternative High School. The student enrolled at Stockbridge High School in January 2006. The student participated in athletics for the first time in the fall of the 2006-07 school year.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Rockford High School (Regulation I, Section 7) - A late request to waive the previous semester record regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who lived with her father in California from 2002 through the end of the 2005-06 school year before moving to the Rockford School District with her father due to a job transfer. She enrolled at Rockford High School on Oct. 2, 2006. In February 2006, the student underwent shoulder surgery in California and was able to complete 11th grade course work at home. She did not enroll in 12th grade until the transfer was completed to Rockford. After three weeks in Rockford, the shoulder showed a re-tear, requiring the student to return to California on Oct. 23, 2006 and live with her divorced mother for therapy and possible surgery. Because of the therapy, medication and inability to use her right arm, the student was only able to complete two courses through a homebound charter school program during the first semester of the 2006-07 school year. The student returned to her father and reenrolled at Rockford High

School on Jan. 24, 2007. An Educational Transfer Form is in process to fulfill the transfer regulation under exception 8.

The Executive Committee tabled the request pending receipt of necessary additional information.

Ann Arbor-Pioneer High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who lived with his grandparents for most of his life and attended Dearborn Heights-Robichaud High School from 2004 until 2006. The student's grandmother died in 2004. When the student's grandfather died in 2006, the student moved in with a great aunt and uncle in the Carleton-Airport School District, enrolled to begin the 2006-07 school year and participated in basketball games while ineligible. Airport High School has forfeited nine basketball games. When the great aunt and uncle could no longer financially support the student, he moved in with an aunt in the Ann Arbor-Pioneer High School attendance area to begin the second semester of the 2006-07 school year.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver effective with the start of the spring sports season of the current school year.

Ashley High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) - A request was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student previously attended New Lothrop High School before moving to the Ithaca School District when the family lost their home in New Lothrop. The student enrolled at Ashley High School on Oct. 11, 2006.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Ashley High School.

Athens High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request was made to interpret the transfer regulation differently for a 12th-grade student from a CSJET-listed foreign exchange program (IntoEdVentures - SMG) whose host family resides in Union City. The host family consists of a husband and wife who are retired school teachers who have served as a host family in the past and currently are school district employees. The stu-

dent enrolled at Athens High School to begin the 2006-07 school year and participated in volleyball games until it was discovered that she was ineligible because the residential change did not comply with Interpretation 60 (public school of the new residence). The school maintains that the wording of exception 4 is unclear and is requesting that the forfeiture requirement be waived and the student's eligibility be reinstated for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

The Executive Committee held that the wording of Interpretation 60 states and means that transfers by students who are placed through CSJET-listed foreign exchange programs are immediately eligible at the school serving the attendance area in which the host family's residence is located (not at the public school of the host family's preference). The committee reaffirmed that this student participated as an ineligible athlete and that all contests in which she participated are to be forfeited in writing by Athens High School to its opponents in those contests. The committee determined that the student must now be withheld from as many days of competition as she participated in while ineligible.

Bloomfield Hills-Andover High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year. The student previously attended Birmingham-Seaholm High School, enrolling at Andover High School on Jan. 29, 2007 because the Birmingham Board of Education determined that the school will change to trimesters. The student participated in JV tennis while at Seaholm.

The Executive Committee denied the request, pursuant to the specific requirements of this section of the transfer regulation.

Boyne City High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Boyne City Schools since elementary school except for four days of enrollment at Charlevoix High School from Jan. 23-26, 2007. The student reenrolled at Boyne City High School on Jan. 29, 2007, and did not participate in athletics.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Detroit-Marvin L. Winans Academy for Performing Arts (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who previously attended Walled Lake Central High School before enrolling at Winans Academy on Jan. 22, 2007, due to difficulties and conflicts with the basketball coach at Walled Lake Central. The student participated in at least five basketball games while ineligible in spite of written (Jan. 29 and Feb. 2, 2007) and verbal (Jan. 24 and 29, 2007) instructions to the contrary from MHSAA staff. The school was informed again on Feb. 2, 2007 that it must discontinue allowing the student to participate and forfeit previous contests the student participated in while ineligible. The school then opted out of the MHSAA Boys Basketball Tournament and continued to allow the student to participate in games on Feb. 6 and 9, 2007, again in spite of written and verbal instructions to the contrary on Feb. 6, 2007. On Feb 12, 2007, the school was notified that it must show cause as to why its Membership Resolution has not been violated.

The Executive Committee reaffirmed the application of the transfer rule as well as the requirement of forfeits for this student's participation and continuing ineligibility under Interpretation 273; and pursuant to Article II, Section 2 of the MHSAA Constitution, the Executive Committee determined that members of the school's administration and governing board shall be required to meet with the Executive Committee on March 22, 2007, to show cause why the school has not been in violation of its MHSAA Membership Resolution.

Flint-Carman-Ainsworth High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who lived in Wisconsin with his mother and has moved in with his father in the Carman-Ainsworth School District, enrolling on Dec. 4, 2006. The student's parents never married. An Educational Transfer Form and proof of the biological father (birth certificate or Friend of the Court documents) were requested but not received.

The Executive Committee tabled the request until required information is provided.

Flint-International Academy of Flint (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year. The student previously attended Flint Southwestern Academy and enrolled at International Academy on Feb. 14, 2007. The student has not participated in any MHSAA sponsored tournament sport at either school.

The Executive Committee granted the request at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

Gobles High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose appeal for waiver was submitted by Bloomington High School and tabled by the Executive Committee on Jan. 17, 2006, pending additional information. The student lives in the Bloomington School District and attended Gobles High School for grades 9-11 until enrolling at Bloomington High School from Jan. 8 to Feb. 7, 2007. In August 2006, the student's father was diagnosed with cancer which caused the student to not participate in cross country in the fall of 2006 and caused the student to change schools because of transportation problems and the demands of the father's cancer treatment. The family resides in the Bloomington School District which is closer to the family's home than is Gobles High School. The father's cancer is in remission and the father has returned to work. The student reenrolled at Gobles on Feb. 7, 2007 and wishes to participate in track & field.

The Executive Committee granted the request of Gobles High School for waiver of the transfer regulation.

Montrose-Hill McCloy High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Montrose Schools since the 4th grade before enrolling at Burton-Genesee Christian High School to begin the second semester of the 2005-06 school year for personal and religious reasons and did not participate in baseball at Genesee Christian. The student reenrolled at Hill McCloy High School on Jan. 22, 2007. The school requested waiver so the

student would not be ineligible for the second consecutive baseball season.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver.

Petoskey High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year. The student previously attended Cheboygan High School, enrolling at Petoskey High School on Jan. 27, 2007.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

Walled Lake Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) - A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Waterford Mott High School and enrolled at Walled Lake Central on Jan. 17, 2007 because she was the victim of assault, property damage and theft while enrolled at Waterford Mott. Confidential information and a letter from Waterford-Mott were submitted regarding the student's fear for her safety.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver.

Warren-Cousino High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year. The student previously attended Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice High School before enrolling at Cousino on Jan. 22, 2007. The student did not participate previously in interscholastic athletics.

The Executive Committee granted the request at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

Warren-Cousino High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year. The student previously attended Harper Woods-Regina High School before enrolling at

Cousino on Jan. 22, 2007. The student did not participate previously in interscholastic athletics.

The Executive Committee granted the request at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

Wyoming Park High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) - A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year. The student previously attended Wayland Union High School and enrolled at Wyoming Park High School to begin the second semester of the 2006-07 school year. The student will be residing with her grandmother and did not participate in any MHSAA sponsored tournament sport.

The Executive Committee granted the request at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

Livonia-Stevenson High School (Regulation I, Section 13) - A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the required deadline for participation in a girls soccer Olympic Development Program that the MHSAA be notified in writing by the principal at least 30 days prior to the event. A letter was received from the high school principal on Feb. 20, 2007, for an event scheduled in Texas on March 16-18, 2007.

The Executive Committee was informed that 33 students have been invited to the Texas event and that for 22 students, the required principal's permission letter had been submitted prior to the deadline. For three students, including this one, the letter was received late. For eight other students, no letter has been received. The Executive Committee observed that the nature of the Texas event is such that it appears it should not have qualified for the exception to the limited team membership rule. The committee determined that the exception for 2007 shall apply only to the 22 students whose documentation was completed on time. Because the limited team membership regulation in soccer becomes effective with the first day of practice, students may participate in

the Texas event without loss of eligibility if they do not practice (or try out) with their school team until after the event is over.

Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice High School (Regulation II, Section 10[A]15) - A request was made to clarify the interpretation regarding multi-team soccer tournaments (three games with 30-minute halves to the allowed total of 180 minutes). The regulation states that a player who participates in a multi-team event is allowed one other game date that week, Monday through Sunday. Brother Rice is hosting a multi-team event on Saturday, Aug. 25, 2007, and would like to host a second multi-team event the following day, Sunday, Aug. 26, 2007. The traditional staff interpretation has been that only one other regular timed game (two 40-minute halves) may be played in a week (Monday through Sunday) when a multi-team tournament is played. The school contends that the term "game date" should allow another multi-team event the following day if it is only the second contest that week.

The Executive Committee confirmed the accuracy of the staff interpretation and denied the request for the school to host and participate in two multi-team soccer events within the same week, Monday through Sunday.

Commerce-Walled Lake Northern and Walled Lake Western High Schools (Regulation II, Section 11) - Pursuant to Interpretation 217, a request was made to waive the three-player rule on behalf of the high school boys and girls swimming & diving coach at Walled Lake Western and the girls swimming coach at Walled Lake Northern who are also employed by the Walled Lake Community Education Recreation Division as coaches of the Trident Swim Club. The program is sponsored by the Walled Lake Schools (Community Education) and involves students from grades

1-12. There are 40 swimmers in the program currently, 35 enrolled in the Walled Lake Schools and 19 of these in high school. There are five students from two other high schools and two grade schools. The coaches are employed full-time by this program.

The Executive Committee denied the request for waiver, noting that Interpretation 217 is intended to assist situations where a school coach's primary employment is as a director or coach of a non-school entity where he/she would have contact with students from many different school districts in a setting involving the sport this person coaches for the school.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) - Pursuant to Interpretation 242, the following junior high/middle school was granted waiver of the enrollment regulation to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and 8th graders for the sport listed in the 2006-07 school year only.

Alanson-Littlefield Middle
(7th-grade Volleyball)

Representative Council - The Executive Committee reviewed a draft of the March 23 Representative Council meeting agenda.

Future Meetings - The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. (Representative Council meets Friday, March 23); Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. (Finance Committee Meeting follows); Saturday, May 5, 2007, at 5 p.m. (Representative Council meets Sunday, May 6); Wednesday, June 13, 2007, at 9 a.m.; Monday, Aug. 13, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.; Thursday, Sept. 6, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.; Monday, Oct. 1, 2007, at 9 a.m. (following Annual Business Meeting); Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.; and Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. (Representative Council meets Friday, Nov. 30). ■

*The Only Official Interpretations Are
Those Received In Writing*

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 21, 2007

Members Present:

Paul Ellinger, Cheboygan
William Newkirk, Meridian
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
James Derocher, Negaunee

Staff Members Present:

Tom Minter
Peggy Montpas
Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)
Kathy Westdorp

2007-08 BUDGET PREPARATION SCHEDULE:

February 21 - Audit and Finance Committee proposals (including personnel);

March 23 - Representative Council approval;

April 18 - Audit and Finance Committee proposals (remainder of budget);

May 8 - Representative Council approval.

2006-07 Year-To-Date Review - Through Jan. 31, 2007, revenues were approximately \$935,000 behind the 2005-06 school year, and total disbursements were nearly \$66,000 higher than the first six months of the previous fiscal year. Unfavorable weather contributed to fall tournaments netting approximately \$800,000 less in 2006 than in 2005.

Without any form of tax support, membership dues or tournament entry fees, with no net revenue over expenses from television and radio rights fees or officials registrations, and with only modest income from sponsors, advertisers and investments, the MHSAA's dependence on tournament revenue as the nearly sole source of support for its services to member schools and their constituents is unique in the United States. The poor weather and its effects on attendance at fall 2006 tournaments underscores the necessity for the MHSAA to maintain sufficient financial reserves to continue to provide its many essential services with quality and efficiency when inclement weather or other disruptive events affect revenues from MHSAA post-season tournaments, as occurred in the fall of 2006. Undesignated fund reserves represented 3.37 months operating expenses on Jan. 31, 2007 (compared to 4.14 months one year earlier and 2.98 months two years earlier.)

Audit Review - The Audit and Finance Committee reviewed the Aug. 14, 2006 letter from the professional auditors to MHSAA management and the response of management to six suggestions presented by the auditors. One response - to require the signatures of two persons when transferring funds to purchase or redeem investments - would require a change in the Investment Policy approved March 24, 2006 by the Representative Council. The Audit and Finance Committee voted to advance the proposal to the Representative Council at its March 23, 2007 meeting.

Business Continuation Planning - The Audit and Finance Committee reviewed the latest edition of the MHSAA's "Information Systems Business Continuation Plan" and heard a report of a Feb. 2, 2007 meeting in which staff explored the various threats to MHSAA operations, internally and externally, and ideas for preventing business interruptions or reducing their severity or duration. A written summary of the Feb. 2 meeting will be provided to the committee as it is prepared for staff.

Football Finances - A summary of host financial reports from all sites of the 2005 and 2006 Football Playoffs was provided to the committee, which discussed areas of concern, including inconsistencies in the amounts being charged from site to site as well as from game to game at the same site. It was the consensus of committee members that before resorting to more onerous requirements of all hosts, as has been recommended by the association's professional auditors, staff should attempt to be more effective in advance communications regarding expectations and more thorough in reviewing submitted financial reports. When hosts submit expenses that appear to exceed what is typical of regular season games, they should be

required to itemize and justify such differences and provide copies of invoices for out-side charges.

For the committee's April meeting, staff will present several ideas for reworking financial formulas to encourage better financial management and cost controls by hosts of Football Playoff games.

Girls Basketball Semifinals and Finals

- When the Girls Basketball Tournament moves to the Convocation Center at Eastern Michigan University in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years, the MHSAA will pay lump sums for two expenses that were previously the responsibility of patrons: (1) a ticketing charge that was included in the ticket price; and (2) parking for which patrons paid \$5 to \$7 per vehicle. To assure that net revenues from these events will not be reduced from previous years, the Audit and Finance Committee will propose to the Representative Council March 23, 2007 that the ticket price for the Girls Basketball Semifinals be increased from \$7 to \$8 (no change at the Finals [\$8]).

Tournament Officials' Compensation -

The Audit and Finance Committee reviewed the biannual survey of leagues and conferences regarding regular season pay for contest officials and the current schedule for MHSAA tournaments. The committee will propose to the Representative Council in March that the payment for Individual District Wrestling officials be increased from \$125 to \$150 and that District and Regional Volleyball officials' fees be increased from \$35 to \$40, for a total annual budget increase of \$3,200 and \$3,410, respectively.

Tournament Managers' Compensation

- The Audit and Finance Committee reviewed the current schedule for honoraria paid to MHSAA tournament managers. The committee will propose to the Representative Council in March that the honorarium for the Girls Gymnastics Final manager be increased from \$200 to \$250 and the honorarium for the eight Lower Peninsula Tennis Finals managers be increased from \$150 to \$200, for a total annual budget increase of \$450.

In considering pay to both tournament officials and managers, the association balances two sometimes competing concerns: (1) the desire to standardize all sports as much as possible; and (2) greater compensation for longer work.

Competing School Mileage

Reimbursement - The committee reviewed the effect of three seasons of doubled mileage reimbursement for participating teams in MHSAA tournaments, and it determined not to recommend any change at this time.

Personnel Mileage Reimbursement -

The MHSAA's reimbursement to those who serve on its committees has remained at 30¢ per mile for two decades while the IRS allowance has increased to 48.5¢. The Audit and Finance Committee will propose to the Representative Council in March that the mileage reimbursement be increased to 40¢ per mile effective Aug. 1, 2007.

Personnel Considerations -

The Audit and Finance Committee adopted proposals for the Representative Council's action in March relative to compensation for staff for fiscal year 2007-08. ■

Attend CAP this Spring!

If you are a coach who has never attended a Coaches Advancement Program course, consider yourself at a competitive disadvantage. Instituted in 2005 by the MHSAA and the Michigan State University Institute for the Study of Youth Sports, the program takes coaching beyond the games to address matters such as communication, philosophy, instruction and nutrition to assist in your everyday duties as a coach.

The MHSAA and ISYS look forward to helping coaches provide their student-athletes with the best that interscholastic athletics has to offer.

Consult the MHSAA Web site at mhsaa.com and click on "Coaches" for an updated schedule of CAP courses near you this spring. Simply fill out the enrollment form and return to the MHSAA to secure your spot in the program.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OVERSCHEDULING ISN'T JUST THE FAULT OF PARENTS

Parents receive much criticism from school administrators, coaches and even the student-athletes in our programs who cite parents that are too often over-involved, under-informed and out of control. An overused joke describes a recently fired coach who vows his next coaching job will only be at an orphanage.

In criticisms like this are found some kernels of truth. But the greater truth is that we **need** parents to help school sports reach their full potential. We need parent volunteers, in front of our boards of education asking for things and behind the scenes supporting those things.

It is extraordinarily difficult raising kids. We parents find ourselves wanting to smooth out every rough spot in our children's lives, even though we know that it is in difficulties and disappointments that they learn and grow and develop the courage and character to become the best adults they are capable of being.

In our love for them more than any vicarious effort to live through them, we sign them up for and drive them to every conceivable camp and clinic and every scheduled practice and game. We feel if we don't keep pushing, our kids will fall behind and perhaps not make that school team or get the playing time they should, or receive the college scholarship they (or we) dream of.

We do this in spite of the growing body of evidence that it would be a shrewder investment to buy them books than balls. Statistically, the chances of a college athletic scholarship are remote; but we talk about it anyway, the rush of doing so pumping us up.

We do this in spite of the growing library of publications that chastises our ways, like *The Hurried Child* and *The Power of Play* (David Elkind), *A Parents' Guide to Building Resilience in Children and Teens* (American Academy of Pediatrics) and *Confessions of a Slacker Mom* (Muffy Mead-Ferro).

I'm thinking it's time we let up on these parents. Or at least time that we parents who also are sports administrators share the responsibility for this madness. Ellen Galinsky, president of the Families and Work Institute in New York, says that we need to address not only parents but those who are creating the environment.

Galinsky cites, and says doctors should confront, the "marketers who push all those 'drill and practice' toys." Galinsky says, "Pediatricians need to be talking not only to parents but people who create the world in which parents are raising kids today."

It's not much of a stretch to include those of us who design and/or regulate school sports. We are creators of this world too. If we design a program that demands year-round specialization in sports, perhaps we are also to blame. If we merely allow such overemphasis on sports, perhaps we also share some blame.

All of this suggests that defined starting and ending dates for school sports seasons and limitations on activities between school coaches and student-athletes out of season are not only sensible but necessary, and that efforts to shorten school seasons and reduce out-of-season coaching are not only appropriate but overdue. ■



SPORTSMANSHIP

“CITIZENS IN A CIVIL SOCIETY”

Following is excerpted text from NCAA President Myles Brand's State of the Association speech entitled, "In All, Fairness," delivered during the 2007 NCAA Convention in Orlando, Fla., this January. The entire address appeared in the Jan. 15 NCAA News.

This fall saw several fights on the football field, which portrayed the sport, the schools and the players in unfavorable lights. In the worst cases, they involved intentional acts of harm to opponents.

These incidents were ugly to watch, and they provided grist for the cynical mill of commentators and reporters. In one case, it touched off a media firestorm of criticism and second-guessing about the severity of sanctions to the involved student-athletes.

However, few among the critics got the story right. They focused on the need for harsher penalties. But by doing so, they missed the main point.

The real problem is that such student-athlete behavior illustrates a failure to have internalized the values of sportsmanship. Only a deep, personal commitment to sportsmanship can best the urge to initiate such behavior or join the fray. This commitment, importantly, must be established long before it is tested on the field.

This is a significant responsibility and challenge for intercollegiate athletics.

The presidents of the involved institutions understood the real issue. In addition to missed games, they prescribed community service. On the surface, this may appear to be a tepid response to outrageous behavior.

But the presidents knew what they were doing. They wanted to use community service to teach respect for others, and respect for others is an essential part of sportsmanship.

Simply put, sportsmanship is essential to the proper conduct of intercollegiate athletics. It is the manifestation of good character within the context of competitive athletics.

One central reason for the acceptance of

intercollegiate athletics as part of the academy is that it teaches development of student-athletes as citizens in a civil society. Without the developmental growth connected with sports participation, the reasons to connect intercollegiate athletics with a university education would be significantly diminished.

What, then, is sportsmanship? Let me say, before answering that question, that I take this term to include both genders, despite its male reference.

Now, it seems to me that there are two necessary conditions of sportsmanship as it applies to competitive athletics contests, especially those that are part of intercollegiate athletics. Sportsmanship, no doubt, is a complex concept, and I do not mean to provide an exhaustive explanation; but the following features capture the heart of the phenomenon.

First, a student-athlete exercises sportsmanship only if he or she respects others with whom and against whom he or she competes. It does not matter whether the sport is an individual one, such as track and field or wrestling, or a team one, such as softball or football.

To show respect for an opponent does not diminish the competitiveness involved in sport. Indeed, if one does not maximize competitiveness, then that is disrespectful; to not give full effort, to not do one's best, is to say, implicitly at least, the opponent is not fully worthy. In the case of contact sports, such as football, to show respect is perfectly compatible with hard play.

But for the sportsman, full effort and hard play must be done with a commitment to fairness. Fair play means more than merely abiding by the explicit rules of the game. Every sport has explicit rules for competition and for safety; but each sport also has implicit conventions about fair play and respect for opponents. Given the differences among sports, these implicit rules vary considerably; but they all pertain to the way players treat each other.

Second, a student-athlete exercises

sportsmanship only if he or she respects the game. That means respecting the code of ethics and conventions surrounding the game. For example, while it is permissible – though it does incur a penalty – to foul someone going in for a lay-up late in a game, it is not permissible, according to basketball's conventions, to foul more aggressively than necessary to disrupt the shot.

Importantly, the game is disrespected when a student-athlete cheats. Some cheating involves intentionally breaking the rules of the game, such as using illegal equipment, say a corked bat. But some cheating has more to do with student-athlete behavior that affects the competition.

Using performance-enhancing drugs is an example of this latter type of cheating. In that case, an athlete attempts to gain an unfair advantage by using artificial means. It is disrespectful to the traditions and code of conduct of a sport to compete on a drug-assisted basis. It shows the participant places personal success beyond all considerations, and he or she disregards the commitment to fair play.

The NCAA has, for some time, been diligent in enforcing rules against the use of performance-enhancing drugs. The NCAA tests in Divisions I and II, and Division III have begun a serious pilot study that involves testing.

Similarly, gambling on college sports disrespects the game. Our American culture tolerates a high level of gambling; there are some municipalities and states in which gambling is legal. Poker has turned into a national pastime, with adolescents among the most prolific participants.

Be that as it may, wagering on college games by those engaged in intercollegiate athletics, especially student-athletes themselves, creates the threat of illicit influences on the outcome of games. One of the key reasons why college sports is popular is the games have credibility and no one knows their outcomes in advance. They are fair contests. If the outcomes are manipulated by pointshaving, for instance, the credibility on which they are based evaporates. I believe there is little, if anything, that would be more harmful to college sports than systematic intrusion of gambling interests.

Sportsmanship applies not only to participants, student-athletes, but also to others

associated with college sports. Among those are the coaches and officials, athletics and university administrators, fans and boosters, and the media. The core elements of sportsmanship are relevant to all; namely, respect for the participants and respect for the game.

One critical group is the fans. College sports fans, survey research has shown, are among the most avid. Their commitment to their university or college team is often intense, lifelong, and carried with pride. That is good. Being a college sports fan is enjoyable; it builds bonding with others and with the institution. It offers a cathartic outlet for the pressures of modern life.

Avid fan behavior, however, has a dark side. It can become unruly, even dangerous at times. It is fine for fans to cheer loudly for their teams; but it is unsportsmanlike to hurl derogatory, demeaning epithets at opposing players.

It is fine to stand and shout at critical moments; but it is potentially dangerous to charge onto the field to pull down the goal posts. It is fine to tailgate before the game, to party after the game; but it is unacceptable to have celebratory riots in which fires are set, property is destroyed, and drunken mobs roam the streets.

How are we to promote and reinforce sportsmanship? How are we to deal with the egregious failures of sportsmanship – for example, team fighting and celebratory fan riots?

The answer is far easier to articulate than to put successfully into practice. Sportsmanship is learned through education. The good news is that no one is better at education than universities. But sportsmanship must be taught continually. The task is never done, in part because the players and the student fans change every year.

Aristotle argued that one becomes virtuous by doing virtuous acts. That is, the underlying attitudes leading one to act virtuously begins by undertaking the right behaviors until they become habitual. The attitudes necessary for sportsmanship must be nurtured, taught and reinforced.

Athletes new to the team must be told what is expected of them. Coaches, of course, are key to this process, but mature peers, older players, also have a role to play. Athletics directors and professional support

personnel must set the expectations and reinforce the right behaviors.

The NCAA has been actively involved in the teaching of all aspects of sportsmanship for some time. It promotes and supports campus-based educational programs concerned with fair play, nutrition and health, and gambling abstinence. Among its major programs are *CHAMPS/Life Skills*, *APPLE* and *Don't Bet On It*. In addition, a new Web site offers best practices, and the *Everyone's a Player* campaign highlights respect, responsibility and integrity. Nonetheless, it is not likely these national programs are sufficient to teach sportsmanship. Campus-based instruction, both formal and informal, is critical to successful learning.

Universities have recently taken steps to minimize disruptive fan behavior and to increase safety. For example, schools better manage crowds trying to charge the field or court – some have installed safer, collapsible goal posts; law enforcement is better prepared; and city and municipal government, and the media, are more cooperative.

In the end, individual campuses must decide which practices work best in their environments. They must understand and act on the effective strategies to prepare for the big game; they must manage the game to best ensure the safety of players, coaches, officials and fans; and, if necessary, mete out fair, consistent but strong punishments for those who are ill-behaved.

The task facing campuses is made more difficult by a culture that often accepts, even encourages, sports fan misbehavior. It is important for leadership both inside and outside the university to counter this untoward perspective.

In sum, sportsmanship is a central element in college athletics. Good sportsmanship reinforces the positive nature of intercollegiate athletics. It demonstrates character development by student-athletes, the role of coaches as teachers and mentors, and it adds to the pleasures of college fans. But poor sportsmanship reflects poorly on all those engaged in intercollegiate athletics. ■

REGISTER ALL NONFACULTY COACHES BEFORE THEY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES

The *MHSAA Handbook* requires that any coach who is not an administrator or a member of the regular teaching staff of the school district must be registered by the school with the MHSAA. The requirement pertains to all nonfaculty coaches, full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer.

The regulation states, "The person responsible for the immediate training or coaching of a secondary school athletic team SHOULD be a member of the regular teaching staff of the school district. If a non-faculty member is used (paid or volunteer), that person must be registered by the school with the MHSAA on a form provided for that purpose BEFORE assuming any coaching duties. A non-faculty member coach must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and not a current high school student.

"NOTE: The Representative Council URGES that all schools strive to the standard that only qualified faculty members are used as head coaches of interscholastic athletic teams, and that all non-faculty coaches complete the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) or equivalent program. It should be the goal of every member school to require coaching education for every coach, every year."

There are two ways to fulfill the registration requirement:

1. The easiest way to register nonfaculty varsity head coaches is online at mhsaa.com, as you provide School Directory information. Click on "School Login" on the left-hand nav bar.
2. Forms for registering other nonfaculty coaches may be requested from the MHSAA or may be found on pages 116-117 of the *MHSAA Handbook* for 2006-07. You may copy and enlarge as necessary. The forms – one for high school, the other for the junior high/middle school level – may also be downloaded from the MHSAA Web site at mhsaa.com. Forms may be submitted throughout the school year as nonfaculty coaches are assigned. Many schools submit forms just prior to each season: fall, winter and spring. ■

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

JUST PARTICIPATING

This past summer my daughter wanted to participate in a pet-look-a-like contest in our town. She spent the better part of two days getting her costume in order for both herself and her hamster. While she was busy getting everything in order, I allowed my adult experience to take over. Knowing that she might be disappointed with the results of this pet contest, I did what every respectable parent might do. I tried to talk her out of participating. I kept telling her, Are you sure you want to do this? Her enthusiastic, "yes" helped me to back off. I figured I would let her be part of the pet contest, and if things didn't go as well as she planned, I'd be there to lend my adult support.

On the day of the contest, we were up early and out to the park where large cacophony of animals and owners had assembled. The vision I had for my daughter was beginning to come true. The owners and pets had professional looking costumes and many displayed advanced creativity. The people waiting in line to register had come to this contest with the idea of winning.

I held tight to my daughter's hand as I looked down at her with hamster in tow, she still had the same excitement she had when she starting designing her costume. With a smile on her face, she looked right at me and said, "Isn't this great Dad." All I could muster was a cordial smile knowing deep down that impending disaster was not far off.

Finally, when it was our turn to register we were informed that the pet-look-a-like category had been filled and we were welcome to register for another category. My daughter smiled without missing a beat and said, "I'm going to register for the pet-as-owner category." We were given our number, lucky No. 36. If we could make it through 36 entries-maybe my daughter would see that the competition was superior to her hamster-owner outfit and want to quit. Maybe she would grow impatient of waiting in line, or the fact that she would have to be on stage alone would scare her into quitting.

None of these scenarios played themselves out. My daughter waited patiently in line with a smile. When it was her turn she walked confidently on stage and presented

her costume and hamster with pride. She conducted herself with grace and confidence and walked off the stage still smiling. As any good parent should be, I was proud of the way my daughter had carried herself on stage. Under the bright lights of the pet contest she put her best foot forward.

We waited patiently for the results of the contest to be read. My daughter wiggled her way to the front row to watch the prizes being handed out. I waited anxiously, really hoping that she wouldn't be too disappointed by the results.

The results went as expected through my adult eyes. A dog and his owner won the grand prize, a cat and owner were the most creative, and a horse and its owner the most unique. As the crowd began to disperse I tried to spot my daughter, knowing that she would be disappointed and possibly even crying. I was ready with my "Dad Skills." When my daughter bounced up to me with the same energy that she had at the beginning of the contest, I was surprised. "Aren't you disappointed that you didn't win?" I asked.

"No," my daughter eagerly responded with a big smile. "I was just happy to have participated. Thanks, Dad, I had a great time. Do you think we can stop for a Slurpee on the way home?"

Walking back to the car, I began to put this story into the context of my career as a teacher, coach, and administrator. In our adult eyes, being on a team is about striving to be the best, working hard to do the things it takes to be a winner. Too often, we are quick to forget that sometimes students just enjoy being part of a team. For them the joy is in just participating, not championships, trophies, or top honors. For my daughter, like most kids, just having a chance to be in the pet contest was enough.

This winter when, you are out watching, coaching, or supervising games, let's all learn from our kids and remember just participating is the real reward.

— Steven M. Beyer

Beyer is Associate Principal at Sterling Heights Stevenson High School

RUNNING-RELATED INJURIES

Running is a popular sport worldwide, both recreationally and competitively, and is practiced by all ages year-round. An estimated 40-50 million Americans run several times a week. Running helps to maintain fitness level, and health benefits include decrease in the risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Along with the benefits of running, are the risks of running related injuries. Factors contributing to running injuries depend on age, experience, type of running, running surface, and gait imbalances. The majority of running injuries are related to overuse and training errors. Often athletes try to accomplish too much too fast and set unrealistic goals.

Higher injury rates are associated with prior injury, running more than 40 miles a week, and running seven days a week without a rest day. Studies have shown that runners who do not take rest days are injured more often than those who take rest days.

Intrinsic and extrinsic factors can lead to running injuries as well. Intrinsic factors include foot arch anatomy, gait imbalances, leg length discrepancy, and pelvis and lower extremity alignment. Extrinsic factors include footwear, arch supports, and types of running surfaces. Selecting proper footwear with appropriate support, cushioning, and stability is important in injury prevention.

History taking is the key to determining overuse issues and whether training errors are a contributing factor. Injury risk assessment should be based on the individual athlete. Valuable information can be obtained from reviewing training logs.

Common training principles include increasing weekly mileage by no more than 10 percent, not exceeding 30 percent of total weekly mileage on long runs, and when returning from an injury, resuming at a decreased pace, at no more than 50 percent of normal training mileage.

TYPES OF INJURIES

The highest frequency of running injuries occurs in the knee, lower leg, ankle and foot. Lower frequency of injuries occurs in the hip,

thigh, and lower back. The most common injury is patellofemoral stress syndrome, followed in no particular order by iliotibial band friction syndrome, medial tibial stress syndrome, Achilles tendinitis, plantar fasciitis, and patellar tendinitis. Other injuries include metatarsalgia, hamstring injuries, stress fractures, and ankle sprains.

Patellofemoral Stress Syndrome – Anterior knee pain, due to variety of biomechanical factors.

Patellar tendinitis ("jumper's knee") – Anterior knee pain over the inferior patella (the lower part of the knee cap) and patellar tendon, typically worse after exercise.

Iliotibial band friction syndrome – Pain at the lateral knee (outside of knee) due to iliotibial band friction over the lateral femoral condyle (outside of knee joint) during knee flexion.

Medial tibial stress syndrome ("shin splints") – Pain at the junction of the medial and distal tibia (lower shin), typically relieved by rest.

Tibial stress fracture – Anterior tibial (shin) pain that persists, with rest, and can occur at night.

Achilles tendinitis – Tenderness at the Achilles tendon and/or at the insertion onto the calcaneus (heel), with or without swelling.

Plantar fasciitis – Medial heel pain at the insertion of the plantar fascia onto calcaneus (heel), worst during first step out of bed in the morning.

Hamstring injuries – Tenderness at the hamstring, decreased strength and flexibility. Occur after inadequate warm up, when hamstring contracts.

Metatarsalgia – Pain at plantar surface of foot, proximal to second-fourth metatarsal heads (base of second - fourth toes). Primarily at second toe.

DIAGNOSIS

Diagnosis is primarily made by a careful history and physical examination. Sometimes imaging studies may be necessary to determine the extent of an injury.

TREATMENT

Most running injuries can be treated conservatively with rest, ice, short course of NSAIDs, bracing as needed, local modalities, and targeted rehabilitative exercises and stretching techniques. Important components of treatment are assessment of training errors and potential overuse, biomechanics, footwear, and instituting formal physical therapy as necessary. If pain or limitation in activity level persist beyond an acceptable time frame, further reassessment by a physician is recommended. Communication amongst the athlete, athletic trainer, coaches, family, physical therapist, and physician is important in achieving optimal results. The goal is to allow athletic participation in a safe and effective manner, making training modifications as necessary, with an emphasis on injury prevention.

PREVENTION TIPS

- Adequate warm-up and stretching routine before and after running
- Adequate time to rest after competitions to allow healing process
- Listen to your body (do not push too fast, too far, and beyond pain level)
- Set realistic goals
- Paying attention to running surface
- Injury specific rehabilitative exercises; modification of workout regimen (ie-swimming, elliptical) to prevent de-conditioning
- Proper footwear (shoe wear; orthotics if necessary)
- Regular follow-up with athletic trainer and physician

For further information on this article or for priority appointments for sports injuries please contact **Henry Ford Center for Athletic Medicine at 313-972-4216.** ■

ERGOGENIC AIDS AND SUPPLEMENTS

To run faster, jump higher, and be stronger are traits desired among our student athletes. Our athletes weight-train, run, cross-train, and mentally train to improve their performance. They push their bodies to be faster, stronger, and more agile. Some are happy with their improvements, others want more. They seek out other ways to be faster and stronger. Unfortunately, some of those other ways can be very detrimental to their overall health. Furthermore, some of the people telling them that it's okay to use these means are their coaches, teammates, family members, role models, and big companies with slick advertising.

One of these "other ways" is the use of ergogenic aids and supplements. Sports medicine physicians are often asked about the use of such agents. When it comes to children and adolescents, the answer is quite simple: DON'T. The basic answer is simple. However, getting the athlete to understand

DON'T, can be tough. The following paragraphs highlight some of the more common types of agents student-athletes may be exposed to, as well as some of the detrimental health issues caused by the use of these agents.

The first group of agents, and certainly most described in the media are the anabolic steroids (androstenedione, stanazol, depo-testosterone, dianabol, etc.). The anabolic steroids can be used orally, through injections, and topically. They are reported to be helpful in increasing muscle strength, increasing weight, decrease the muscle fatigue experienced with intense training. However, there numerous side effects of steroid use. These side effects include:

- Testicular atrophy
- Gynecomastia (increased breast tissue in males)
- Diabetes

- Liver cancer
- High blood pressure
- Decreased HDL (good cholesterol)
- Acne
- Premature balding
- Tendon weakness
- Depression
- Aggression
- Addiction
- Psychosis

DHEA (dihydroepiandrosterone) is also a popular supplement. It is a weaker form of the anabolic steroids. It is also advertised in the anti-aging and obesity markets. Its effects are not proven, and its detrimental effects to a child's or adolescent's body is unknown.

Creatine is probably the most asked about supplement for adolescent patients. Natural creatine is made in our liver, pancreas and kidney, and most of it is found in our skeletal musculature. Normal intake comes from lean meat and fish. The purported benefits of creatine are increased power during anaerobic, short-duration, high-intensity activity. It has no benefit in aerobic activities. The athlete using creatine may have decreased need for recovery time, increased energy for repeated activity, and less effect of lactic acid build-up.

The great concerns with creatine are three-fold. Common adverse effects include muscle cramping and dehydration. There are unknown effects to the growing body (including brain development and testicular development). Of greater concern is the fact that these supplements are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Therefore, we are left to trust what is on the label is actually in the bottle. More on that later.

The last supplement discussed here is **ephedra** (ma huang). Ephedra is a supplement that was taken off the market as a diet aid because of increased risk of side effects,

possibly even fatal ones, but incredibly it is now in many stimulant drinks. There is presumed improvement in athletic performance, physical appearance, weight control, and increased energy. It's like a powerful cousin to caffeine. There are no good studies to support its use. There are a number of studies that state ephedra will increase blood pressure, heart rate. Case reports reveal incidence of irregular heart beats, heart attacks, strokes, irritability and anxiety with the use of ephedra.

Common to all of these supplements is the fact that they are not regulated. Again, when we take these supplements, we are trusting that what is on the label is actually in the bottle. The U.S. Olympic Organization asked athletes to bring in such supplements from the US and around the world. Upon analysis, several of these products included anabolic steroids as an ingredient when their labels did not indicate it; ephedra when the label read "ephedra-free," and a whole host of toxic fillers contained within the tablets.

Several millions of dollars were spent on such supplements in 2000. We probably know more about the marketing of these products that we know about what's in them and what they do. With this large uncertainty about the quality and contents of supplements, what their true benefits are, and the known negative side-effects, it's easy to say DONT.

If you have athletes considering these agents, it's a great opportunity to look at their current diet and training program. Making sure that they're getting adequate protein, good carbohydrates, good fats, and proper hydration is the key. Appropriate, supervised strength training will get them to the next level. The alleged "easy fix" of supplements is not the answer.

For further information on this article or for priority appointments for sports injuries please contact **Henry Ford Center for Athletic Medicine at 313-972-4216.** ■

WINTER RATINGS DUE MARCH 23, 2007

Officials ratings for varsity or subvarsity boys basketball, girls volleyball, wrestling and ice hockey are due by March 23, 2007. Ratings received after this date will not be processed.

Athletic directors are reminded that only one rating should be submitted for each official regardless of the number of times the official

works contests for one school. Each official may receive a varsity and a subvarsity rating from one school for working more than one level of competition.

All ratings must be done online at mhsaa.com. Following are instructions:

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ONLINE RATINGS

We are pleased to offer online ratings availability to our member high schools and junior high/middle schools. Athletic directors can now log on to password-protected sections of our Web site to submit officials ratings. Additionally, athletic directors have the option to assign passwords to their coaches to rate officials.

TO ACCESS THE ONLINE RATINGS SYSTEM:

1. Click on the *School Login* link on the left-hand side of the mhsaa.com home page
2. Enter your school ID and password to access the "MHSAA School Services" Web page.
3. Click the red *Enter Officials Ratings* link in the middle of the page. To learn how to enter ratings, click the Help link in the upper right-hand section of the "MHSAA Officials Ratings Center" Web page to access up to date instructions.

Athletic directors have the option to provide their coaches the ability to add officials ratings. Once logged on to the "MHSAA School Services" Web Page:

1. Click the *Update Your Coaches' Information* link.
2. Click the corresponding *Edit* link found in the right-hand column of the table row containing the sport you wish to select.
3. Check the box to allow the coach in the rated sport to enter ratings online.
4. Enter a password for the coach.
5. Re-enter the same password (to verify).
6. Notify your coach of her/his access. Coaches should use the two or three character sports code + the school ID for a login ID. For example, Brighton High School's Girls Basketball Coach would use GBB1016 for a login ID (GBB for girls basketball and 1016 for Brighton's school ID). For Baseball, BA1016 would be the login ID. The password assigned by the athletic director should then be used. Below is a list of prefixes for your school's sport codes.

Baseball-BA	Boys Basketball-BBB
Boys Lacrosse-BL	Boys Soccer-BSO
Football-FB	Girls Basketball-GBB
Girls Compet. Cheer-CC	Girls Lacrosse-GL
Girls Soccer-GSO	Ice Hockey-IH
Softball-SB	Volleyball-VB
Wrestling-WR	

Login instructions for coaches can be downloaded from the "MHSAA Officials Ratings Center" Web page. Coaches cannot approve online ratings. That responsibility remains with the athletic director. Once the ratings are entered by the coach, she/he can click on a link to notify the A.D. that they have submitted ratings for approval. **Important:** A valid e-mail address for the athletic director is necessary for online ratings.

DON'T MISS THE 28th ANNUAL OFFICIALS AWARDS & ALUMNI BANQUET

May 12, 2007

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is proud to announce the 28th Annual Officials' Awards and Alumni Banquet to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2007. The Banquet will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, corner of I-496 and Creyts Road, Lansing, beginning at 7 p.m.

For our 28th annual celebration, a multimedia show is being produced for the banquet, taking a look back at what was happening in 1957, 1962, 1967, 1977, and 1987, the years our honorees stepped into the officiating ranks. To assist us in the production of this show, we are asking that officials being honored share images from their early days in officiating. If you have a good picture of someone being honored that you would like to have included in the show, please contact Faye Verellen, Administrative Assistant at 517-332-5046, ext 126.

As part of the program, individualized plaques will be awarded to those officials with 20, 30, 40, 45 and 50-plus years of service with the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The "Vern Norris" award will be presented to one official in recognition of contributions made to officiating. The Banquet will give those officials who were awarded plaques previously, a chance to renew acquaintances as alumni.

Those who plan to attend should complete the form below and return it with a check or money order in the amount of \$15 per ticket to the MHSAA no later than April 20, 2007. Ticket orders will be filled on a first-come basis; however, priority will be given to those officials receiving awards. Officials, friends and relatives are also encouraged to attend. **Tickets will not be sold at the door.**

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(Please detach and return to the MHSAA office before April 20, 2007)

OFFICIALS' AWARDS AND ALUMNI BANQUET Saturday, May 12, 2007

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____
(Last) (First) (Initial)

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Number of tickets ordered _____ @ \$15 — Total: \$ _____

Number of tables ordered _____ @\$15 — Total: \$ _____

Please return before April 20, 2007, and make check payable to the Michigan High School Athletic Association, 1661 Ramblewood, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

TICKET MONEY CANNOT BE REFUNDED

ELDRED, HICKMAN NAMED 2007 FORSYTHE AWARD WINNERS

Keith Eldred, athletic director at Williamston High School, and **Tom Hickman**, who recently retired after 39 years of service at Spring Lake High School, are the recipients of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Charles E. Forsythe Award for 2007.

This annual award is in its 30th year of existence and is named after former MHSAA Executive Director Charles E. Forsythe, the Association's first full-time and longest-serving chief executive. One or two recipients are selected each year by the MHSAA Representative Council, based on an individual's outstanding contribution to the interscholastic athletics community. Eldred and Hickman will be presented the award on March 24 at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing at halftime of the Boys Basketball Class A Final.

Eldred has spent his entire career as an educator with Williamston Community Schools, where he is currently the Dean of Students. In his 36 years at Williamston, he has also served as a science teacher, middle school principal, and athletic director at both the high school and middle school.

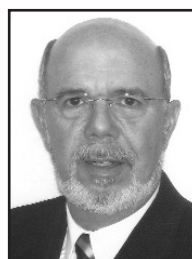
As an athletic administrator, Eldred has worked with numerous MHSAA committees and hosted a bevy of postseason tournament events. His greatest contributions have come in his 24 years as an elected member of the Association's governing board, the Representative Council. He has been vice president of the Representative Council for the past six years. His term of service is the longest of any current Council member, and his tenure is only exceeded by that of George Mead, who served from 1930-62 representing Detroit Public Schools.

Eldred has served as a presenter and facilitator at numerous National Federation of State High School Association Summer Meetings. He is also an active member of the Michigan Science Teachers Association, the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals and the Michigan Education Association. In the community, he is active with the United Methodist Church of Williamston and his local Boy Scouts troop. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University in 1970, and his Masters in Education Administration from Michigan State University in 1981.

Hickman retired in 2003 after 40 years of service to Spring Lake Public Schools, including 33 as the athletic director. He coached football for 12 years, wrestling for six years and baseball for 25 years at Spring Lake. His baseball teams won two third of their games in nearly 700 contests and reached the MHSAA Finals on two occasions.

As an athletic administrator, he was a founding father of the Spring Lake Booster Club and the Lake Athletic Foundation to help support the school's athletic programs. He also started the district's Parent Communications Network Committee and a Winner's Circle program to help students make good lifestyle choices.

A member of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, the Michigan High School Coaches Association and the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association, he has been honored as a regional Athletic Director of the Year, and named to the baseball coaches association Hall of Fame. The MHSAA previously honored Hickman with the Allen Bush Award in 1994. In 1994, the baseball field at Spring Lake High School was named in his honor.



Eldred



Hickman

In the community, Hickman helped start a youth summer baseball league and coached Little League baseball, has served on the board of the Michigan Special Olympics, and is an elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Spring Lake. He is a 1962 graduate of Alma College.

"Through their dedicated service to educational athletics, both Keith Eldred and Tom Hickman have left their mark," said John E. "Jack" Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. "Keith Eldred is an outstanding teacher and administrator, who's longevity in our business is extremely valuable as we deal with the changing world around us. Tom Hickman's work as a teacher, coach and administrator helped maintain quality programs in his community, and blazed a trail of pride for others to follow. Both gentlemen are wonderful choices for the Forsythe Award."

Past recipients of the Charles E. Forsythe Award are:

- 1978 - Brick Fowler, Port Huron; Paul Smarks, Warren
- 1979 - Earl Messner, Reed City; Howard Beatty, Saginaw
- 1980 - Max Carey, Freesoil
- 1981 - Steven Sluka, Grand Haven; Samuel Madden, Detroit
- 1982 - Ernest Buckholz, Mt. Clemens; T. Arthur Treloar, Petoskey
- 1983 - Leroy Dues, Detroit; Richard Maher, Sturgis
- 1984 - William Hart, Marquette; Donald Stamats, Caro
- 1985 - John Cotton, Farmington; Robert James, Warren
- 1986 - William Robinson, Detroit; Irving Soderland, Norway
- 1987 - Jack Streidl, Plainwell; Wayne Hellenga, Decatur
- 1988 - Jack Johnson, Dearborn; Alan Williams, North Adams
- 1989 - Walter Bazylewicz, Berkley; Dennis Kiley, Jackson
- 1990 - Webster Morrison, Pickford; Herbert Quade, Benton Harbor
- 1991 - Clifford Buckmaster, Petoskey; Donald Domke, Northville
- 1992 - William Maskill, Kalamazoo; Thomas G. McShannock, Muskegon
- 1993 - Roy A. Allen Jr., Detroit; John Duncan, Cedarville
- 1994 - Kermit Ambrose, Royal Oak
- 1995 - Bob Perry, Lowell
- 1996 - Charles H. Jones, Royal Oak
- 1997 - Michael A. Foster, Richland; Robert G. Grimes, Battle Creek
- 1998 - Lofton C. Greene, River Rouge; Joseph J. Todey, Essexville
- 1999 - Bernie Larson, Battle Creek
- 2000 - Blake Hagman, Kalamazoo; Jerry Cvengros, Escanaba
- 2001 - Norm Johnson, Bangor; George Lovich, Canton
- 2002 - John Fundukian, Novi
- 2003 - Ken Semelsberger, Port Huron
- 2004 - Marco Marcet, Frankenmuth
- 2005 - Jim Feldkamp, Troy
- 2006 - Dan McShannock, Midland; Dail Prucka, Monroe ■

NOMINATIONS FOR SPECIAL AWARDS

The MHSAA receives nominations for the Women in Sports Leadership Award, the Charles E. Forsythe Award, the Vern L. Norris Award, and the Allen W. Bush Awards. Conferences, officials associations, and individuals may nominate deserving candidates. Names submitted last year will continue as nominees in this year's selection process.

Nomination forms are online at mhsaa.com. Deadlines for nominations are October 15 for the WISL Award and for the Forsythe Award, Feb. 15 for the Norris Award, and April 1 for the Bush Awards.

TENNIS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 17, 2007

Members Present:

Jennifer Aldrich, Allegan
Jayne Boerman, Grand Rapids
Nancy Brissette, Essexville
Matt Brown, Cadillac
Chris Curtiss, Corunna
Tom Flynn, Beverly Hills
Erin Fouty, Grand Rapids
Wendy Franz, Midland (Advisory)
Jody Hehs, Bloomfield Hills
Renee Kent, Big Rapids
Tom Leyrer, Jenison (MHSTeCA)
Nancy Malinowski, Farmington Hills

Heather McKinney, Whitehall
Peter Militzer, Portage
Lee O'Bryan, Fraser (MASSP)
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Steve Stanley, Williamston
Tiger Teusink, Holland (Advisory)
Beth VanDyke, Holland
Deb VanKuiken, Holly (MIAAAA)

Members Absent:

Jim Cummins, Battle Creek (Advisory)
Pam Porter, Stevensville

Staff Member:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2007 Tennis Committee met at the Michigan High School Athletic Association to review their responsibilities as a standing sports committee; review Representative Council action from 2005-06; study calendar concerns; consider proposals from the MHSTeCA; recommend to the Representative Council changes regarding MHSAA regulations relative to tennis; and evaluate current practices and procedures with MHSAA staff.

PRIOR REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

Through review of prior meeting minutes and Representative Council action, it was noted that approval was given to the Tennis Committee's recommendation to change the season limitations from 16 contests to 16 days of competition. No action was taken by the Representative Council regarding the Tennis Committee's recommendation to require a biannual mandatory Tennis Coaches Rules Meeting, thus eliminating the voluntary annual meetings for tennis.

CALENDAR CONCERNS

Mr. Jack Roberts, Executive Director, met with the Committee and highlighted some of the more frequently expressed possibilities for changing the starting dates and lengths of high school seasons as well as the major issues created by those options and

some ideas for "solving" the issues. Additional information was requested from this Committee to help shape the report for Representative Council. Questions presented and reviewed included whether the post labor day start of classes affected tennis. Most Committee members indicated that the post labor day start was advantageous to tennis as it reduced the number of matches that were necessary to release students early during the school year and there was the ability to play more matches prior to the start of school. Additional questions revolved around the concern of having the opportunity for a first competition on the first day of practice which is presently the policy in tennis. Some of the concerns included the lack of a "tryout" period and the possibility of injury of a student on the first day of practice due to lack of conditioning as well as the flexibility of the schedule. A further update was given by Mr. Roberts regarding the sports seasons litigation and the timelines that were currently in place.

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS FROM THE MHSTeCA

Several recommendations from the MHSTeCA were reviewed by Committee. The first proposal included a request that a Tennis Rules Meeting be required every other year for all tennis coaches and that the meeting be mandatory for all coaches who are coaching their first year of tennis. The Committee emphasized the advantage of also using this meeting as a mentoring session,

networking, surveying and setting the tone for the season.

The next recommendation was a request to institute a "Set Break" at the end of the first set of tennis. This "Set Break" would take place regardless of whether the set ended in an even or odd number of games. The "Set Break" could last up to two minutes maximum and coaching would be allowed during the time of the break. The Tennis Coaches Association revealed that the maximum this would extend a match would be two minutes and would be more consistent with USTA rules. There were opinions on both sides of this proposal as many believed that players needed to be on their own during this time and that the change may lead to more confusion. However, it was stated that the coach could choose whether or not they needed to speak to a player during this two minute break.

The next proposal request was to provide three balls per match at the Finals Tournament. The Tennis Coaches Association believed that this would make the Finals Tournament special and would also result in speeding up the play. There was some concern that this may be a cost to the schools and that there would then be additional requests for this to occur at a Regional Tournament or during season play. The Committee only requested that this occur at the Finals.

There was also a recommendation from the MHSTeCA for consideration by the Tennis Committee to request that after the established MHSAA first day of practice, that regardless of when a player joins the team, that player would be limited to two outside competitions during that team's season. The current limited team membership for tennis (and all individual sports) is that the limited team membership rule shall be applied from the point of a student's first participation in a contest or scrimmage, rather than practice. The MHSTeCa representation indicates that there was some misuse of the rule when coaches allowed students to join the team late in the year and displaced students who have been long-standing members of the team. There was additional discussion regarding the pressure that coaches felt to allow these students to be on their teams. Further discussion included that there should be a minimum match requirement to participate at the Regional level.

Other proposals from the Association were to adopt the Coman Tiebreak Rule of

the USTA and to allow for flexibility of Final Tournament Managers at sites with fewer than 16 courts to play at least two flights of Semifinal matches on Friday. No action was taken on either of these proposals.

The final proposal requested a limitation in the size of Regionals to eight teams or a maximum of nine teams when necessary. Discussion included that this would make the State Tournament larger and that there would be too many competitors at the Finals Tournament; minimizing the number of teams at the Regionals would increase the number of Regionals from eight to 11.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee discussed that Tournament Managers needed to be reminded to procure indoor courts ahead of time in the case of inclement weather.

The Committee also requested that within the Tournament Materials that Regional packets require that results also provide the players' names and that the copies of the draw sheets also reflect players' names. Identification of the name and school would enhance the tournament results for the Finals Manager.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Require mandatory attendance every other year at Rules Meeting and that newly appointed coaches in tennis must have mandatory attendance in their first year of coaching (18-0).
2. Institute a "Set Break" at the end of the first set which would take place regardless of whether the set ended in an even or odd number of games. The set break could last up to two minutes maximum and coaching would be allowed during that time (18-0).
3. Provide three balls per match at the Finals Tournament (14-4).
4. Request that after the established MHSAA first day of practice, that regardless of when a player joins the team; that player would be limited to two outside competitions during that team's season (15-1).
5. Request that the number of teams assigned to Regionals be limited to eight teams or a maximum of nine teams if necessary Approved (12-6). ■

CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 17, 2007

Members Present:

Kirk Baese, Elsie (MASSP)
Bill Chilman, Cadillac
John Danaher, Niles
Jim Dittmer, Ludington (MASB)
Keith Eldred, Williamston
Dan Flynn, Escanaba
Jim Hilgendorf, Johannesburg (MASA)
Ryle Kiser, Reese
Lillian Mason, Grand Blanc (MASB)
Dan McShannock, Midland (MIAAA)
Jeff Melvin, Bangor
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Cavin Mohrhardt, Spring Lake

Linda Myers, Morley
Matt Peters, Ellsworth
Jan Quarless, Dollar Bay (MASA)
Mike Roberts, Hillsdale
Dave Snyder, Petoskey

Members Absent:

Cheri Meier, Ionia (MASSP)

Staff Members Present:

Jack Roberts
Tom Rashid (Recorder)
Camala Kinder
Tom Minter

INTRODUCTION

The historical purpose and membership of the committee was reviewed. The Classification Committee is the only MHSAA Committee which includes two representatives designated from each of four educational organizations that serve member schools: MASB, MASA, MASSP and MIAAA. Four members of the Representative Council served on this committee. Issues cross many professional lines and membership includes all forms and classifications of member schools. Over the years the committee has served to process and make recommendations to the Representative Council regarding reclassification of tournaments as well as the counting of students for this same purpose (which students, how they will be counted and when).

The minutes of the 2006 Classification Meeting were reviewed. Three topics from the 2006 meeting were highlighted: Concerns of our smallest Class D schools, cooperative programs complying with the 3500 enrollment cap and counting students from non-traditional schools/programs. Tournament classification proposals from four sports were processed through the committee in 2006: competitive cheer, alpine skiing, swimming & diving and volleyball; swimming & diving and volleyball classifications were unchanged by the Representative Council.

3,500-STUDENT ENROLLMENT CAP

The minutes of the May 2006 Representative Council Meeting were also reviewed and included progress and resolution in school compliance with the 3,500-student enrollment cap. Enforcement of the enrollment cap resulted in expanded opportunities due in part to more teams being created and the allowance within the regulations for the same person to coach two different teams. Other states are struggling with the lack of limits on cooperative agreements that MHSAA schools have now resolved.

RECENT TOURNAMENT CLASSIFICATION ACTIONS

The following occurred at the May 2006 Representative Council Meeting: Competitive Cheer was reclassified from Class A, B and CD into four equal divisions assisting in the rapid growth of sponsoring schools (approximately 80 schools per division); Alpine Skiing from Class A and B-C-D to two equal divisions; Volleyball was not changed from Class A, B, C, D and removing the 20% allowance for Class D soccer was referred to the Classification Committee. The Representative Council tabled moving Swimming & Diving from two to three equal divisions as the concern remained that too many swimmers qualified under existing criteria, making it impossible to hold MHSAA meets at sites other than the very largest college venues. In 2006-07, the staff has been

working with a consultant on qualification times who has a formula that was somewhat successful in predicting reasonably sized competitive fields for the 2006 Lower Peninsula Girls Swimming Meet; and this will be utilized and evaluated this winter with boys swimming before the Representative Council revisits swimming classification in March 2007.

A summary of Representative Council action from December 2006 streamlining the cooperative agreement renewal process was presented which included the changing of the signature requirement to include only superintendent and principal, only requiring renewal forms for agreements among Class A and B or three or more schools, eliminating Executive Committee approval for renewals except those who cut students or have inordinate win loss records and stipulating that for purposes of determining tournament classification in March, divisions will be established assuming an agreement will continue even if the renewal form has not been received.

ENROLLMENT DECLARATION FORM

Three editorial changes were discussed and accepted to improve clarity and the submission of accurate information on Enrollment Declaration Forms for the counting of students on Feb 21, 2007 for tournament classifications during the 2007-08 school year.

LATE ADDITIONS OF NON-TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDENTS

The following policy was affirmed regarding adding non-traditional programs to a school's Enrollment Declaration Form after divisions have been created and schools have been notified. No changes can be made to adjust a form downward once classification divisions have been announced. A school may add a non-traditional school or program and adjust its count upward when three conditions exist: 1) The Board of Education or Governing Body of a non-public school officially adds a newly created non-traditional program that did not exist at the time the enrollment declaration form was submitted; 2) Students in the new program were counted in the basic enrollment count submitted on the form; and 3) The program addition does not cause a change in division/classification

that would alter a published tournament division. This may be granted on a case by case basis by the Executive Director upon the written request of a member school.

COUNTING ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS IN A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

A letter was presented from Tamarack-Dollar Bay High School expressing a desire to create a formula where small Class D schools would not be required to count all students enrolled in their school among the count used for cooperative agreements, but count those few students who may participate or a percentage of participants. Past history and attempts in this direction as well as future solutions were part of a thorough discussion that resulted in no action taken to change current policy. There was consensus that the most competitive equity across all classes and sports comes from counting each student who may be eligible to participate.

TWENTY PERCENT OF SPONSORING SOCCER TEAMS IN DIVISION 4

A recommendation from the February 2006 Soccer Committee meeting was referred from the Representative Council in May 2006 regarding soccer classification. The results of a survey were presented that showed 41 percent of all schools sponsoring soccer who responded to the survey (257 schools) preferred no change in the current classification which places 20 percent of the smallest schools which sponsor soccer in Division 4 and divides all other schools into three equal divisions (1, 2 and 3); 59 percent favored a change to four equal divisions. The history and rationale of this approach was reviewed, namely that after a multi-year and multi-sport study, it appeared that two factors impacted classification that favored a smaller range of enrollment: the collision or contact nature of a sport and the need for large numbers of participants. Of all sports studied, only soccer met both criteria. It was also noted that if the 20 percent solution were removed, approximately 21 schools would move from Div. 3 to Div. 4, 14 schools would move from Div. 2 to 3 and seven schools would move from Div. 1 into Div. 2. Some schools felt they were artificially boosted to a higher division because of the 20

percent alignment. The committee did not support the recommendation of the soccer committee (19-0).

BASKETBALL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO STUDY MORE DIVISIONS

A December 2006 Basketball Committee recommendation to form a study group to explore expanding beyond four classifications in basketball was discussed. There was some consensus that while discussion was appropriate, a formal study of basketball expansion should be delayed until the seasons litigation is finalized and athletic/academic calendars (post Labor Day start) are solidified. Other factors were brought forward such as altering the relationship among district and regions, increased travel, possible positive and negative impact on smaller schools, final venue availability and realizing that a change in basketball would lead to consideration for volleyball and then perhaps for all sports.

STUDENTS ELIGIBLE UNDER ELIGIBILITY ADVANCEMENT

The practice of not counting 7th and 8th grade students eligible for high school athletics because of an Eligibility Advancement Application on the Enrollment Declaration Form was affirmed in light of fewer students needing or taking advantage of this opportunity, from a high of 94 students in the 1991-92 school year to a low of 16 students in each of the past three school years.

RESIDENCY OF STUDENTS IN NON- TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS

New models of schools being established in some school districts have brought into question the requirement that the base/original school for students who attend a non-traditional school be the school of residency for all 9th graders or the previous school for students entering after first enrolling in the 9th grade. The committee also discussed whether a school district should be allowed to designate by action of its Board of Education a high school as the base/original school rather than the student's school of residency and if this change should require Executive Committee approval on a case by case basis. Some members thought it more equitable for all students to be eligible at their school of residency. Concerns were raised about possible abuses which would use attendance at a non-traditional school to funnel students into one high school or one athletic program. Future discussion about possible changes should include all three models of non-traditional schools; those administered by a single high school district, those administered through a consortium and those of a multi-high school district.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Continue the current practice of classification for boys and girls soccer of placing 20 percent of schools which sponsor soccer in the Division 4 Tournament and then placing the remaining 80 percent equally among Divisions 1, 2 and 3; no change (19-0). ■

E-MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

As the MHSAA Web site expands and paper correspondence to schools diminishes, it is more vital than ever to have updated e-mail addresses in our database, both from member school personnel and registered officials. It is your responsibility to visit the "School Login" or "Officials" page of mhsaa.com to update personnel and/or building information on a timely, routine and consistent basis to keep files current. Communications with this office and with fellow school administrators and officials will improve if we all do our housekeeping.

You will need your ID number and password to access your information.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 23, 2007

Members Present:

Justin Ansel, Onaway
Sue Barthold, Kentwood
Vic Bechard, Trenton
Mike Brya, DeWitt
Jim Conway, Mt. Pleasant
Jeff Cook, St. Clair (MASSP)
Marty DeJong, Kalamazoo
Rick Dorn, New Boston
Denny Fulk, Laingsburg
Keith Green, Hemlock
Dave Gumpert, South Haven
Kurt Hofmeister, Saginaw
Nancy Milanowski, Farmington Hills
Shelly Millis, Blanchard

Brian Myers, Bangor
Terry Newton, Battle Creek
Tim O'Rourke, Midland
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Rick Schmidt, Holt
Ken Stephens, Allen Park
Gerrard Taylor, Detroit
Larry Thompson, Adrian
Wayne Turmell, Bad Axe
Dick VanderKamp, Grand Rapids
Brian Zdanowski, Greenville

Staff Members Present:

Randy Allen
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2006-07 MHSAA Baseball/Softball Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving the MHSAA tournament series in baseball/softball.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Scheduling Issues: MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts provided an update on school sports scheduling issues being affected by litigation and legislation. The committee also discussed possible issues with the first date of practice being the same as the first date of competition.

Review of 2006 Representative Council Action: A summary of the 2006 Representative Council action was provided, which included the adoption of the suspended tournament game provisions and the Regional tournament dates remaining unchanged.

National Federation Topics: A discussion took place regarding National Federation playing rules and equipment. Specific items covered included helmet chin straps, head first slides, breakaway bases, softball pitching distances, ball compression standards, face protection, face mask standards and softball double first bases.

Out-of-Season Update: Members of the committee reviewed the out-of-season coaching alert which deals with preseason down time, summer dead period and sports curriculum classes.

Regional Dates: A lengthy discussion was held regarding the schedule of the Regional tournament. The Regional is currently held on the second Saturday after Memorial Day, which has created issues when inclement weather forces the Regional to the following Monday and the Quarterfinal the next day. In addition, the Regional currently falls on an ACT national testing date.

Tournament Procedures: The committee discussed the tournament manager materials and Participating School Tournament Information. Suggestions were also given on umpiring issues and some members expressed interest in additional divisions or seeding at the District level. The committee also reviewed the new rain shortened tournament game procedures, approved in May of 2006, that state if a game is called prior to completion of any full inning, after the fifth inning, the game should become a suspended game if the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead and the home team has not retaken the lead.

Rules Meetings: The rules meeting schedule was reviewed, and committee members had the opportunity to identify any additional points of emphasis.

Additional Items: An update was given on the Softball Semifinal schedule, as well as renewal of the ball adoption contracts with Rawlings (Baseball) and Wilson (Softball). Committee member concerns included tournament classification issues, softball pitching

limitations, scheduling and equal emphasis given to both sports by tournament host sites.

Division 3 QF 11 vs. QF 10
 QF 12 vs. QF 9

REGIONAL AND SEMIFINAL DRAWS

At the Regional tournament, the pairings were drawn as 2nd Lowest District No. vs. 2nd Highest District No. and Lowest District No. vs. Highest District No. Semifinal pairings were drawn as follows:

Division 4 QF 15 vs. QF 13
 QF 16 vs. QF 14

Division 1 QF 2 vs. QF 4
 QF 1 vs. QF 3

Division 2 QF 5 vs. QF 7
 QF 8 vs. QF 6

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Conduct the Regional tournament on Friday (the day before the current tournament date) with the following day Saturday as the rain date (25-0). ■

MHSAA Game Suspension Guidelines (Inclement Weather)

- I. On threatening days, game management should consult with contest officials about steps to be followed if conditions worsen.
- II. When suspending an outdoor contest, officials and game management shall follow these policies.
 - A. Lightning necessitates that contest be suspended. The occurrence of lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion — *lightning is lightning*.
 - B. Severe weather in the form of rain or snow may make the field unplayable.
- III. When a contest is suspended, the home school administration shall attempt to arrange for the security of all participants.
 - A. Contestants and support personnel shall be moved to appropriate indoor facilities.
 - B. When lightning is observed or thunder is heard and the contest is suspended, contestants shall not return to the playing field until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes.
 - C. Spectators shall be advised of the action being taken to seek shelter. (Some hosts may be able to offer shelter to spectators but are not required to do so.)
- IV. In considering resumption of competition, the following steps shall be followed.
 - A. Delays for contests scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. must not exceed three hours. Delays for contests scheduled for 3:01 p.m. to 6:59 p.m. must not exceed one and one half hour. Delays for contests scheduled for 7 p.m. or later must not exceed one hour. A postponed contest shall be rescheduled on a date/time mutually agreed to by the schools involved.
 - B. A decision to resume the contest within the time frame must be made by the officials who shall consult the home team administration and visiting school administration present at the contest.
 - C. The home school is responsible for facilities and will be given priority consideration in the final decision if there is not consensus among the three parties.
 - D. The final decision shall consider liability and conditions of facilities as well as future schedules, need to play the contest and finally the quality of all other options.

NOTE: More restrictive local policies and MHSAA tournament policies would supersede these policies and should be shared with the opponents and officials prior to the contest, preferably in writing.

Otherwise, and to the extent allowed by the playing rules code, the official(s) shall make the final decision regarding game suspension once the game begins. ■

WRESTLING COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 24, 2007

Members Present:

Rick Arnett, Delton
Larry Boyer, Battle Creek
Marti Covert, Byron (MWA)
Bob Dailey, Grand Rapids
Joe Droski, Sparta
Tom Flynn, Beverly Hills
Bruce Foster, Wyoming
Mike Garvey, Otsego (MIAAA)
Joe Guyski, Durand
Mark Hagg, Michigan Center
Russ Mackenzie, Madison Heights
Randy Nesbit, Hart
Russ Pericolosi, Iron Mountain
Jeff Pitman, Mason

Jack Richardson, Grandville
Murray Rose, Allegan
Jamie Segorski, Escanaba
Todd Skinner, Linden
Frank Vilardi, Southgate

Members Absent:

Todd Cheney, Hartland
Denny Fulk, Laingsburg
Tim Jones, Leroy

Staff Members Present:

Randy Allen
Mark Uyl (Recorder)

The 2006-2007 MHSAA Wrestling Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics involving wrestling issues and the tournament series.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Scheduling Issues: MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts provided an update on school sports scheduling issues being affected by litigation and legislation. Discussion then took place regarding the starting and ending dates of the wrestling season.

Review of 2006 Representative Council Action: A summary of the 2006 Representative Council action was provided, which included not adopting the Team Tournament seeding proposal and the first practice date proposal.

National Federation Topics: A discussion took place regarding communicable skin disease issues and MRSA. The committee directed MHSAA staff to create a presentation that can be posted on the wrestling page of the MHSAA website that provides information and photographs of current skin issues so that coaches, officials and athletic trainers can be better trained and prepared in this area. Staff will also review and update the MHSAA communicable disease form.

Weight Monitoring Program: Members of the committee reviewed data on hydrostatic appeals, descent plans and the NWCA online weight monitoring program.

Much discussion took place regarding home weigh-in issues; specifically, the notification process that schools must utilize when determining if a home weigh-in or shoulder-to-shoulder weigh-in will be used.

Individual District Format: Based on the Representative Council action of December 2006, the Upper Peninsula schools will compete in the 2008 Individual wrestling tournament series. With these additional schools, much discussion took place on the best formats to conduct the Individual District tournament as efficiently and effectively as possible. Possible formats or improvements that were discussed included an additional round of the tournament on an additional Saturday or weeknight, doubling the number of District sites, Friday night weigh-in (on-site or satellite sites) and a Friday night seed meeting followed by a Saturday morning weigh-in.

Officials Selection Procedures: The committee reviewed the current procedures used to identify and select Regional and Final wrestling officials. The group believed that the process has improved over the past few years with more officials getting an opportunity to officiate at the Final level. All members believed that current practices of identifying those officials able to work a Final must continue so that the tournament does not have the same officials working the Finals year after year after year.

Final Venues and Formats: The committee reviewed the current Final venues in Battle Creek and Auburn Hills, along with the format that each event uses. The group believed the Individual format currently being used works well with the Palace site. Discussion did take place, however, in exploring options of a split site, two-day Final tournament in the future due to the high costs for athletes, coaches and spectators competing in a three-day tournament.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Adopt the following revised language for weigh-in procedures for MHSAA regular-season competition:

Home weigh-in procedures are allowed for MHSAA member schools for regular season competition as a deviation from National Federation rules under the following conditions:

- A. Leagues and conferences may adopt home weigh-in procedures by written mutual consent prior to the regular season for all league/conference competition.
- B. For regular season duals meets and invitational tournaments, home

weigh-in procedures shall be specified on contracts or other written correspondence as a condition of participation. Schools that agree to the conditions of the competition agreement may not subsequently request an on-site weigh-in.

Note: Agreements and consent for home weigh-in procedures shall be done through school athletic administration.

- C. For regular-season competition not governed by league or conference adoption or contractual agreements between schools that specify a home weigh-in as a condition of participation, an on-site weigh-in on the day of competition shall be conducted.
2. For the Individual District tournament, all sites shall require entries of contestants, followed immediately by the seeding meeting, on the Friday night before Saturday competition. If a wrestler does not make weight in that class the following morning, the wrestler is unable to compete in the tournament and all other wrestlers shall be advanced the appropriate number of bracket or seeded positions (19-0). ■

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BOYS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 24, 2007

Members Present:

Ron Allen, Holland
Dave Barry, Walled Lake
Greg Brynaert, Romeo
Chris Corteg, Shelby Township
Bob Dowd, Troy
Aaron Frank, Birmingham
Shawn Grady, Okemos
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Barry Hobrla, Lowell
Tom Hunt, East Lansing

Mike Jolly, Warren
Bill Katsaros, Troy (Coaches Association)
Dan Mills, Portage
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor

Members Absent:

Rick DeBlasio, East Grand Rapids

Staff Member Present:

Tom Rashid (Recorder)

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND HISTORY

The dual responsibilities of the committee as a traditional sports committee and a tournament committee (officials, regional seeding and alignments) were reviewed as well as the process of recommendations to MHSAA Staff and the Representative Council. Meeting minutes from the two meetings held in the 2005-06 school year and recommended Seeding Criteria developed over the summer through a conference call with committee members were reviewed.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS BY THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

A January 2005 Lacrosse Committee recommendation to require that the diversity of activity at open gyms be actually occurring, not just offered, was tabled by the Representative Council in May 2006 to assess the effect of other measures enacted by the Council at that meeting. A May 2006 recommendation to modify the requirements for officials to work the MHSAA Tournament (to include MHSAA registration, attendance at rules meetings and submission of schedules) was approved by the Representative Council in December 2006. First or second-year officials who wish to work the tournament will be required to attend three hours of continuing education. An optional test will be provided for all officials.

In May 2004, the Representative Council approved a three year experiment scheduled to end with the 2006-07 school year for a Tier II tournament for newly created teams and a two division tournament structure

which combined seeding and geography as had occurred previous to MHSAA sponsorship. No teams have opted to enter the Tier II Tournament in the three years of operation and the tournament seeding/geography alignment as developed has been very well accepted by schools. The committee recommends that the Representative Council 1) allow the tournament structure (seeding/geography) to continue on a permanent basis with the seeding criteria to be developed and refined as necessary by the Lacrosse Committee; and 2) discontinue the practice of offering a Tier II Tournament.

2006 LACROSSE TOURNAMENT

The 2006 tournament was reviewed for suggestions for improvement. Points discussed included the preference of turf fields, good geographic locations, the margin of victory in first round games and very strong attendance at the final held at Birmingham Seaholm. The separate but near sites with staggered times and divisions for boys and girls lacrosse appeared to be acceptable to both sport communities and likely to be continued. The change of tournament dates to an earlier start and spreading out some rounds was viewed as a positive adjustment.

COACHES ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Vice-President of the Boys Lacrosse Coaches Association reported that a coaches clinic was held in November with over 40 coaches attending. Concerns were expressed that semi-final sites be neutral so a team was not playing a semi-final game on its home field. The BLCA will work to educate

coaches regarding effort to minimize lopsided scores in both regular season and tournament contests as well as encourage coaches to review the number of non playing personnel (coaches and others) who are in the team area during contests. The association also encourages schools to have their coaches join the association, view the Web site and receive e-mail communication. It was hoped that the Web site could be linked to mhsaa.com. A handout with membership information may be distributed at MHSAA rules meetings.

RULES MEETINGS

The 2006-07 rules meeting schedule was reviewed noting that a fourth meeting was added at East Grand Rapids High School and the final meeting will be held later than previous years on March 26, 2007 at the MHSAA. National Federation rules changes for 2006-07 were presented and additional points of emphasis were reviewed by the committee which included lopsided scoring, home team responsibilities, and the preferred use of two officials in the regular season. It was noted that local approved official associations will be holding meetings right after rules meetings which will also serve to fulfill the continuing education requirement for 1st and 2nd year officials who wish to work the MHSAA Tournament.

OFFICIALS

Two meetings have been held in the MHSAA with leadership from approved local officials associations and registered assigners based in the Metro Detroit area and Grand Rapids. Leadership in the lacrosse officiating ranks were commended for their strong role in classroom training for over 65 officials in each of the past two school years through MHSAA sponsored and funded programs. Training attendees include many high school and college students, coaches and a few officials from other sports. On-field officiating at recreation leagues precedes officiating for some officials at school venues. While many are trained, only a portion reaches the field each school year. Current MHSAA registrations are incomplete but show 118 officials. It was noted that the fees for regular-season

competition and assignment of officials are set by schools and that using an MHSAA registered assigner is voluntary. A motion was made and seconded that MHSAA staff inform schools that due to the limited pool of officials, it is strongly recommended that two officials be assigned to regular season contests.

The new tournament requirements were reviewed as were the procedure for tournament selection and assignments that will occur at the May 9, 2007 Lacrosse Committee Meeting and after by MHSAA staff. The committee recommended that because ratings have only been compiled for two years, the staff should again solicit input from officials, athletic directors and coaches.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION/ TOURNAMENT MANAGERS MATERIAL

Draft documents for committee review were presented with a request to review thoroughly in the weeks ahead and contact MHSAA Staff with suggestions. Two areas were reviewed: 1) consider the Monday following the May Lacrosse Committee Meeting as being the draw date for the purposes of amending an eligibility list after the opt out due date (Interpretation 238); and 2) that the tournament manager may increase the time of a weather delay during a postponed tournament contest. The committee discussed but did not act upon allowing late entry of new bona fide school teams into the tournament if done before the opt out due date.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LACROSSE

After circulation for more than a year and in concurrence with the MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee, a motion was approved that the Representative Council adopt limitations on competition, contest maximums, and season length for junior high/middle school boys lacrosse to be effective with the 2007-08 school year. Regulation IV, Section 10 will include a 13 week junior high middle school season with a 12 date limit including two multi-team tournaments.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

Currently there are 90 schools involved in boys lacrosse: 32 teams in Division 1 with 11 cooperative agreements among 49 schools, 37 teams in Division 2 with 3 cooperative agreements involving 41 schools. The 2006-07 school year marked the addition of two new teams due to cooperative agreements splitting so as to comply with the 3500 student enrollment cap (Walled Lake and Grand Rapids-Forest Hills). A new team was started at Swartz Creek High School; a new cooperative agreement from the Warren Consolidated School District with Sterling Heights High School as the primary school, will be allowed to operate over the 3500 enrollment cap until the end of the 2008-09 school year. Five cooperative teams are in the final year of the three year allowance and must adjust to comply with the enrollment cap prior to the 2008 season: Canton-Salem, Farmington, Lansing Waverly, Rochester and Shelby Township-Utica-Eisenhower. Three teams have opted to play up into Division 1.

2006-07 TOURNAMENT REGIONAL ALIGNMENTS

The criteria to seed and place teams in regional alignments by geography was reviewed as amended by a conference call in the fall that changed the previous year's criteria to only include contests against and among MHSAA member schools in calculating the seeding. It was hoped that this would encourage the following: growth of MHSAA member school teams, in-state competition and less out-of-state travel and expense. The committee approved the criteria as presented. Preliminary recommendation from four com-

mittee members seeding 8 teams and placing all others into four regions per division was provided the committee as well as maps with all teams plotted and 2006 tournament results and laxpower.com computer rankings. After discussion the committee approved the regional seeding and alignments for Division 1 and Division 2 subject to change if regional sites can not be secured by staff.

The committee will meet again on May 9, 2007 and reset the teams within each region on a bracket with teams seeded within their region based on the established criteria which includes games played this season prior to the May committee meeting. The semifinal pairings will also be established. Some semi final pairings and some seeded spots may need to be delayed until Mon., May 14, 2007 and could be accomplished via conference call as was the case in 2005.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Discontinue the experimental status of offering a Tier III Tournament and allow the tournament structure (seeding/geography) to continue on a permanent basis with the seeding criteria to be developed and refined as necessary by the Lacrosse Committee (14-0).
2. Establish limitations on competition, contest maximums, and season length for junior high/middle school boys lacrosse be implemented effective with the 2007-08 school year. Regulation IV, Section 10 will include a 13 week junior high middle school season with a 12-contest limit including two multi-team tournaments (14-0). ■

UPDATES NEEDED FOR RECORD BOOK

To help keep the Michigan High School Sports Record Book current, the cooperation of member schools is necessary in maintaining the records.

If a school has a coach or athlete who should be listed in any sport, contact MHSAA historian Ron Pesch with the record and verification (such as newspaper accounts, box scores, official scorebook).

Information can be submitted by e-mail to: records@mhsaa.com

TRACK & FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 25, 2007

Members Present:

Jim Brown, Tecumseh
Lewis Clingman, Grand Rapids
Tom Eschmann, Southfield
David Evens, Grand Rapids
Tom Gass, Jackson, MITCA
Robert Glenn, Detroit
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock
Jerry Haggerty, Hamilton
Antie Hardy, New Haven
Kathy Hubbard, Lansing
Cody Inglis, Suttons Bay
Tom Laughlin, Grand Haven
Joan Ludtke, White Cloud
Mitch Lutzke, Williamston

Mike Nesbitt, Auburn
Lindsay Olds, Hartford
Pat Richardson, Grass Lake
Mike Roberts, Hillsdale
Larry Steeb, Whitmore Lake
Mike Unger, Westland

Members Absent:

Tony Magni, Novi
Fred Smith, Kalamazoo (MIAAA)
Dan Wytko, Portage

Staff Members Present:

Nate Hampton (Recorder)
Mark Uyl

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing specific National Federation sport rules and MHSAA tournament policies, adoptions, regulations, and interpretations that are applicable to Track and Field and Cross Country during the regular season and MHSAA tournaments. The following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to staff for inclusion in tournament information and recommendations that will advance for Representative Council consideration.

CALENDAR ISSUES

Executive Director Jack Roberts reviewed with the committee what concerns if any the post-Labor Day start of academic classes has presented to MHSAA member schools. Mr. Roberts also updated the committee on the current status of the sport seasons litigation.

2007 TRACK AND FIELD REGIONAL AND FINAL SITES

The committee reviewed the Regional sites and school assignments made by the Selection Committee which met on January 24, 2007. The Final sites are as follows:

Division 1 - East Kentwood HS
Division 2 - Zeeland East HS
Division 3 - Comstock Park HS
Division 4 - Ada-Forest Hills Eastern HS

2007 NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES AND EDITORIAL CHANGES

3-2-4(o) - The games committee may restrict the wearing of items which are worn in excess of the school-issued uniform allowed by rule.

4-3-1b(5), & c new 5, 6; 9-6-1b(6) - An American flag, not to exceed 2 by 3 inches, and either a commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the uniform top or bottom.

4-3-1c, new 5,6 - A single manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference, no more than 2 ¼ square inches with no dimensions more than 2 ¼ inches, is permitted on the uniform bottom.

5-7-2; 5-7-3 - Establishes the single starting command for individual races, or opening relay legs of 800 meters or more outdoor or 600 meters or more indoor shall be "On your marks."

6-4-5; 6-5-4 - The throwing sector of 34.92 degrees is now required for the shot put and discus events.

7-5-12 - The runway adjacent to the pole vault box may be marked by a permanent line 1 cm or ½" drawn through the top (zero point) of the vault box extending 3 meters (10 ft.) to each side of the box.

8 note - The standard scoring system for the decathlon, pentathlon and heptathlon shall be the point scale established by IAAF unless the state association determines otherwise.

9-6-5 - A competitor shall wear the assigned unaltered contestant number when numbers are provided and computer chip(s) when those devices are used in competition.

2007 NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Center of gravity (mass for the javelin)
2. The uniform rule: (a) wearing the uniform as intended; (b) allowing the wearing of headgear.
3. Safety markings for field events.
4. Clarifying the "zero point" in pole vault.
5. Concussions - Discussion:
 - Excused to compete in a running event
 - Uniforms

2007 MICHIGAN POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Sixth graders may not compete with or against 7th and/or 8th graders, but may compete in separate races.
2. Prepare athletes during preseason activity, first practice March 13, 2007 (track) and Aug. 13, 2007 (cross country).
3. Athletes excused from field events to participate in running events.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Representative Council action on 2006 committee recommendations.
2. 2007 track and field Finals schedule.
3. 2007 additional qualifier standards.
4. Pole Vault - participant and equipment standards.
5. Cross Country/Track Tournament entry, opt-out, and participating team information.
6. Host cost and reimbursements for track and cross country.
7. Weather delays at Regional/Final competitions for cross country and track and field.
8. Accommodating physically challenged students in track and cross country.
9. Notes and clarifications out-of-season coaching alert.
10. Required practice prior to first competition.
11. ATOM (Association of Track Officials of Michigan) recommendations.

12. MITCA (Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association) recommendations.
13. Health and risk issues associated with track and field and cross country.

ATOM RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Head cross country coaches attend mandatory track/cross county rules meetings.
2. All schools sponsoring cross country are furnished a National Federation Rules and Case Book.
3. In shot and discus, mandate that each trial is measured upon completion, not waiting for the entire field to finish.

MITCA RECOMMENDATIONS

1. MHSAA definitive policy regarding inclement weather when cross country races are underway.
2. Cross country - Qualify to Finals the top 20 positions not on teams from Regional competition.
3. Allow watches to be worn during competition.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MHSAA STAFF

1. Create cross country Web page that will supplement the National Federation rules on cross country that will inform cross country coaches on uniform requirements, rule interpretations and other important discussion points (21-0).
2. Request MHSAA staff to provide interpretation on interrupted cross country competitions when there is lightning and/or thunder (21-0).

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Cross Country – Advance individuals who qualify from Regionals to Finals that finish in the top 20 positions only in those Regionals where there are 80 or more finishers that are not on teams, (currently the top 15 medalists that are not on teams advance) (21-0).
2. Cross Country/Track – Allow watches to be worn during competition (10-7). ■

GIRLS LACROSSE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 25, 2007

Members Present:

Sue Calvo, Swartz Creek
Eve Claar, Bloomfield Hills
Larry Janes, South Lyon
Betsy Kreston, Flint
Ed Maloney, Ann Arbor
Ken Mohny, Mattawan
Keith Vree, Rockford

Members Absent:

Dawn Coe, Holland
Rob Holder, Troy
Mike Mehall, Farmington
Rick Schmidt, Holt
Sarah Tisdale, Lansing

Staff Members:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

GENERAL REVIEW AND PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

The 2007 Girls Lacrosse Committee met at the Michigan High School Athletic Association to review its responsibilities as a standing sports committee; review Representative Council action from 2005-06; consider proposals from the Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association; recommend to the Representative Council changes regarding MHSAA regulations relative to girls lacrosse; and evaluate current practices and procedures with MHSAA staff.

PRIOR REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

Through review of prior meeting minutes and Representative Council action, it was noted that approval was given to the Girls Lacrosse Committee's recommendation to allow a team to participate in 3 multi-team tournaments, beginning with the 2006-07 season (total limit of 18 contests remains).

In May 2004, the Representative Council approved a three-year experiment to conduct a Tier III Tournament for newly created teams. There have been no new teams which have opted to enter the Tier III Tournament in the three years of operation. The Girls Lacrosse Committee voted to recommend the practice of offering a Tier III Tournament be discontinued.

TOURNAMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2006 Girls Lacrosse Tournament was reviewed for points of improvement. The separate but near sites with staggered times and divisions for boys and girls lacrosse appeared to be acceptable to both sport communities. In addition, the change

of tournament dates to an earlier start and distribution of the initial rounds of competition was viewed as a positive adjustment. The Committee determined that the Division 1 and 2 games should be reversed each year. There was an additional request that general information regarding the game of girls lacrosse be provided in the Finals Program.

Division 1 and Division 2 enrollment numbers were also reviewed and 21 schools are presently in Division 1 (enrollment 1946 and above) and 22 schools are in Division 2 (enrollment 1945 and below). There are 9 cooperative programs in girls lacrosse with 43 teams involving 55 schools. The 2006-07 school year marked the addition of four new teams. Third year girls lacrosse cooperative teams with enrollment over the 3500 cap are in their final year of the three year allowance and must comply with the enrollment cap prior to the 2008 season. It was also noted that three teams have opted to play in Division 1 during the 2006-07 season.

REVIEW OF INFORMATION FROM THE COACHES ASSOCIATION

Betsy Kreston provided information and updates from the Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association. It was indicated that the Association is going through change and its primary purpose is to educate and mentor coaches. New bylaws are in place and there is progress toward further communication with coaches in the Association as well as improving services of the Association. This includes a Web site that lists clinics, updates and job openings. The Association encourages schools to have their coaches join the organization.

RULES MEETING SCHEDULE

The 2006-07 rules meeting schedule was reviewed noting that a fourth meeting was added at East Grand Rapids High School with the final meeting held later than in previous years at the MHSAA Office. The US Lacrosse rules which are endorsed by the National Federation were also perused. The Committee also suggested that in addition to MHSAA rules and girls lacrosse rules, that a specific point of emphasis be a review of the policy for inclement weather during the season and MHSAA Tournament.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDELINES

In concurrence with the MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee, middle school guidelines were reviewed and a motion approved (with corrections) to the proposal that the Representative Council adopt limitations on competition, contest maximums and season length for junior high/middle school girls lacrosse to be effective with the 2008-09 school year. The guidelines (included in Regulation IV, Section 10) would include a 13 week junior high/middle school season with a 12 date limit including two multi-team tournaments (Adopted).

OFFICIALS

The leaders in lacrosse officiating were commended for their strong role and mentorship in classroom training for 21 additional officials during this past year. Officials training continues with two sessions set for February and March, 2007. With MHSAA registrations still incomplete, there are 66 officials currently registered. It was further noted that the fees for regular season competition and assignment of officials are set by schools and that using an MHSAA registered assigner is voluntary. Officials selection for tournament assignments will occur at the May 9, 2007 Lacrosse Committee Meeting.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION/ TOURNAMENT MANAGERS MATERIAL

Draft documents for committee review were presented with a request to examine in the weeks ahead and contact MHSAA staff

with suggestions. Two areas were given additional consideration: 1) Tournament Opt-Out due date and draw date and 2) The Girls Lacrosse Tournament Manager's capacity to increase the time of a weather delay during a postponed tournament contest. In addition, it was reiterated that Girls Lacrosse Regional Managers will conduct a blind draw to determine the order in which teams compete in regional competition and all regional competition will be conducted at the regional site.

DRAW FOR DETERMINATION OF SEMIFINAL OPPONENTS

Committee members drew for determining girls lacrosse semifinal opponents. It was established that in Division 1, the Region 2 champion would play against the Region 3 champion and the Region 1 champion would compete against the Region 4 champion. In Division 2, the Region 6 champion competes against the Region 7 champion and Region 5 competes against Region 8.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

U.S. Lacrosse rules were discussed and input requested for further review. Part of the Committee's charge in the May meeting will be review of the current rules. Two items that were discussed were field markings as well as shooting space parameters.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Discontinue the experimental status of offering a Tier III Girls Lacrosse Tournament (7-0).
2. Approve the limitations on competition, contest maximums, and season length for junior high/middle school girls lacrosse to be implemented effective with the 2008-09 school year. Regulation IV, Section 10 would include a 13-week junior high/middle school season with a 12-contest limit including two multi-team tournaments (7-0). ■

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 7, 2007

Members Present:

Amy Fuller, Livonia
Janet Gillette, Comstock Park
Steve Guy, Shelby
Julie Jones, Richland
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Ken Mohny, Mattawan (MIAAA)
Martha Pattee, Evart
Rex Peckens, Ovid-Elsie
Heather Prentice, Portage (CCCAM)
Shane Redshaw, Rochester Hills
Jennifer Ruddell, Remus

Kathy Showers, Mason
Kathy Snyder, Midland
Jessica Trefry, Michigan Center

Members Absent:

Joe Haines, Grand Rapids
Jack Kramer, Houghton Lake
Craig Smith, Armada

Staff Members Present:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The MHSAA Competitive Cheer Committee reviewed its responsibilities as a standing sports committee and the process of making recommendations to MHSAA staff and the MHSAA Representative Council. An explanation was given regarding the responsibilities of the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee which met on January 23, 2007. This Sub-Committee reviewed the technical aspects of Competitive Cheer and its recommendations were submitted to the Competitive Cheer Committee. In addition, a review of the minutes from last year's Competitive Cheer Committee and the May 2006 Representative Council recommendations were perused.

OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING ALERTS

As with other 2006-07 committees, out-of-season coaching alerts were reviewed which were also emphasized in all rules meetings. Changes to out-of-season and summer coaching which possibly impact summer camps and clinics were re-emphasized with the Committee. The specific penalties were also identified and depending on the severity and/or frequency of out-of-season coaching violations, a coach or member school may be subject to probation or prohibition in out-of-season coach/player contact.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMPETITIVE CHEER SUB-COMMITTEE

The MHSAA Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee met with the purpose of annually reviewing current competition and safety rules and to propose changes and additions to the Competitive Cheer Manual. The Committee focused on review of the technical aspects of Competitive Cheer and advised the Committee and ultimately the Representative Council of the rules that needed review, revision or update. The Competitive Cheer Committee also discussed rules for which no action was taken by the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee as well as the recommendations from the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee.

DISCUSSION WITH NO ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMPETITIVE CHEER SUB-COMMITTEE

Several items were discussed and reviewed which helped in emphasizing current rules and regulations as well as giving the items appropriate consideration as proposals. The Sub-Committee took "no action" on the following proposals:

1. Request for braced support to be born at the second level in the suspended forward roll with the provision that all other spotting and safety rules are met.
2. Request for minor transitions to be allowed without a brace provided the

- transition does not release and re-catch in an extended stunt and that the height limitation is observed.
3. Request to remove double twists from the choreography bonus.
 4. Request the same 3 Rounds of competition formatted for junior high/middle school as the high school level. Although this proposal included the request to have the same format as high school, it included rounds shorter in length.
 5. Propose a safety penalty be given when non-cheerers rush the mat after a routine and/or pile-up after a routine.
 6. Propose no-stunting to be allowed after the completion of Round 3.
 7. Propose another score sheet that starts at 20 - due to higher number of competitors.
 8. Propose that socks not be required in any round of competition.
 9. Request to place in writing what constitutes an "attempt" for choreography bonus.

**RECOMMENDATIONS BY
THE COMPETITIVE CHEER
SUB-COMMITTEE**

The following information was reviewed and proposed by the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee to be reviewed, revised and updated by the Competitive Cheer Committee.

1. Allow a high school flyer to pass through an inverted position for an entrance under the following conditions:
 - a. When inverted, the flyer must be in continuous motion.
 - b. The skill (flyer) shall originate from an inverted position **with hands on the performing surface** to a non-inverted stunt shoulder level-height or below.
 - c. The skill must include a spotter who protects the head, neck and shoulders of the flyer and who must be in contact with the flyer as she is going through the inverted position. The skill must also include a base.
 - d. Pitches are not allowed.

- e. When a flyer moves through an inverted position, it will be considered a four point flair and will receive one variety point.
 - f. If the inversion goes to a single base stunt, it will require a back and front spot.
- The Competitive Cheer Committee elected to place additional parameters on this skill which are noted in the above conditions.
2. Allow a competitor to walk from one spot to another without going around a stunt. Tumbling is not allowed under the stunt. (No Action)
 3. Provide a clarification (page 32) regarding extended stunts which brace any other extended stunts.
 4. Allow middle school teams to perform "one leg extensions" with two bracing stunts and a front and back stunt. A choreography bonus would not be allowed. (No Action)
 5. Allow middle school teams to have a double or triple base straddle lift V-sit (with spotter).
 6. Provide a clarification to page 72 in the Competitive Cheer Manual.
 7. Provide a clarification to the requirement of receiving variety points for tumbling, kicks, jumps or splits.
 8. In an effort to rate officials with consistency, require that all category scores of all teams in the division be made available to coaches (upon request) following the meet and recommend that a copy is provided to all coaches.
 9. Include the "Show and Go" clarification to the Competitive Cheer Manual.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

One additional proposal reviewed by the Committee included a request to enhance the value and role of Round 1. Many members relayed the importance of this Round of competition and the need to retain the Round. Other individuals requested that more importance be given to the Round. A proposal was adopted to enhance the value/role of Round 1 in Competitive Cheer and to clarify the score

sheet (making it more consistent with similar categories in Round 3) by dividing the current "team coordination" category of ten points into two 10 point categories. These categories would be called: Team Coordination of Motions and Execution of Motions. The "Team Coordination of Motions" would include the evaluation of timing of the motions. The "Execution of Motions" would include the evaluation of placement and technical aspects of all motions.

Other additional Committee considerations were to include additional language to the Manual which would clarify existing rules and to add stipulations to the surface of the matting for Competitive Cheer in terms of the seams of the mat running perpendicular to the panel judges to create a smooth and uniform surface.

COMPULSORY ROUND SCORESHEET

The Committee reviewed a recommendation that was tabled from the May 2006 Representative Council Meeting which requested a competitor multiplier be used in Round 2 which would balance the risk of entering more participants in the round. This request for multiplier has been reviewed over the last few years by the Committee due to the concern of the variances made by coaches in terms of the number of competitors in the Compulsory Round. Committee members spoke to the fact that there was an increase of penalty and an increase in risk in this round and therefore it was necessary to balance this equation. Debate included the necessity to either have a competitor multiplier for teams that compete with more athletes in Round 2 or to set a required amount of athletes for competition in each of the classes/divisions. Additional consideration was evaluated by the Committee members to make certain that Competitive Cheer was developed in a more equitable manner. Committee members reviewed a proposal that was presented the prior year regarding a competitor multiplier. This competitor multiplier would give a team with one more competitor a 1/100 of a point advantage over a team with one less competitor. This equates to a 0.68 point advantage per judge over a team competing with one less competitor (assuming same score and

both teams are perfect). The competitor multiplier is similar to bonus points that reward a team for competing with a certain number of athletes; therefore the greater the number of athletes competing in Round 2, the greater the bonus. The competitor multiplier is not set to disadvantage smaller teams, as they already have an advantage in the capability to produce fewer errors by fewer individuals than a larger team.

The Committee also reviewed a request to consider competitor equality in all rounds of Competitive Cheer through a range of competitors required in each Division as well as a request that every Round for every division would require a distinct number of athletes on the floor.

SAFETY JUDGES PENALTY SHEET

The Competitive Cheer Committee discussed changing the amount of points for each penalty in each round to a common multiplier. The maximum penalty in the round would be based on the lowest amount of points that could be scored within a round. Therefore, if using the current availability of the Round 1 total of 210 points available, the highest maximum penalty would be based on 10% of the lowest score possible (21 points). Discussion for change included creating a more reasonable scale for penalties that allows a team to overcome a major penalty; making penalties proportionate to other "penalties" in other sports; placing the penalty in line with the points available; and basing the higher penalties to actual safety concerns. The Committee reviewed a proposal which listed minimum penalties as 2 points and maximum penalties as 21 points. In addition, the Committee reviewed some of the current penalties and gave suggestions as to future format.

ROUND SHEETS

The Committee discussed its prior recommendation that all Round Sheets be turned in by 4:00 p.m. the day before (or otherwise specified by the host school) and the penalty assessed to the coach of the team if changes were not completed one hour prior to the meet. Some members of the Committee indicated that there was an increased amount of paperwork with the rule in place and others

indicated that they were very pleased with the change. The Committee decided to change the recommendation to state that the Round 1 score sheet, the Round 2 score sheet, and the Round 3 Routine Description Form may be requested prior to the 4:00 p.m. deadline on the day before the meet but the paperwork could not be required before the deadline. Therefore, for all tournaments, the deadline is 4:00 p.m. the day prior to the tournament with changes allowed one hour prior to the meet.

COMPETITIVE CHEER DIVISIONS

Discussion included the addition of 115 Competitive Cheer teams to the MHSAA Competitive Cheer Tournament and the amount of teams who have been assigned to each Region. Additional conversation included the length of the Competitive Cheer season. Committee members expressed the desire that the number of Competitive Cheer teams continue to be reviewed and that if necessary, preparations be made for pre-Regional competition as growth continues.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Allow a high school flyer to pass through an inverted position for an entrance under the specific six conditions listed and updated (14-0).
2. Allow Middle School teams to perform a double or triple base straddle lift V-sit (with spotter) (14-0).
3. In an effort to rate officials with consistency, require that all category scores of all teams in the division be made available to coaches (upon request) following the meet and recommend that a copy is provided to all coaches (14-0).
4. Recommend the continuance of having 4-16 participants in Competitive Cheer; keep the differential between the Rounds as 2 participants; include a competitor multiplier in Round 2 which will balance the risk of entering more participants in the round. This competitor multiplier will range from a 1.0 for four competitors to a 1.120 for 16 competitors (14-0).
5. Recommend providing additional clarifications to the Manual as noted by the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee (14-0).
6. Recommend the concept of reducing penalties in all Rounds of Competitive Cheer and making the penalties compatible with the safety of the competitor. (14-0).
7. In order to enhance the value and role of Round 1 in the whole of Competitive Cheer and to clarify the score sheet (making it more consistent with similar categories in Round 3), propose dividing the current "Team Coordination" category of 10 points into two 10 point categories: "Team Coordination of Motions" and "Execution of Motions" (14-0).
8. Recommend that only a penalty should be given if the requested paperwork is not received before 4 p.m. the day before a meet. The Meet Director may request that the paperwork be received earlier, however the paperwork is not required until 4 p.m. the day before the meet (14-0).
9. Propose the numbers of teams that are added to Competitive Cheer continue to be monitored for consideration of pre-Regional competition (14-0). ■

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 8, 2007

Members Present:

Jeremy Andrews, Watervliet
Ernie Ayres, Sand Creek
Tim Baker, Constantine
Tom Barbieri, Dexter (MHSFCA)
Bob Buckel, Flushing
Tom Burrill, Caledonia
Richard Carter, Detroit
Cedric Dortch, Highland Park
Morley Fraser, Bay City
Keith Froelich, Okemos (MIAAA)
Todd Geerlings, Caledonia
Jamie Gent, Haslett
Mike Gilcrest, Spring Lake
Don Gustafson, St Ignace
Maureen Klocke, Yale
Dave Larkin, Jenison
Dan McShannock, Midland (MIAAA)

Vic Michaels, Detroit
Kurt Richardson, Clarkston
Randy Schaedig, Cedarville
Michael Sharrow, Algonac (MASSP)
Jim Sparks, Clawson
Jim Sutton, Kentwood

Guest:

Dave Farris (MHSFCA)

Members Absent:

Tony Annese, Muskegon
Keisha Brown, Mt Pleasant

Staff Members Present:

Nate Hampton (Recorder)
Tom Minter

The committee met for the purpose of reviewing playing rules, regulations, and policies concerning high school football and MHSAA Football Playoff procedures. Following is a review of items discussed by the committee as well as recommendations to MHSAA staff and for possible Representative Council action.

Following the welcome and introductions and the history and purpose of the committee, the following items were discussed:

CALENDAR CONCERNS

Associate Director Tom Rashid reviewed with the committee what concerns, if any, the mandated legislative post-Labor Day start of academic classes and the start of fall sport practices and competitions has presented to MHSAA member schools. Mr. Rashid also updated the committee on the current status of the MHSAA Sport Seasons Litigation.

FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Committee members were given 2006 Football Playoff Tournament Information materials and comparative dates that demonstrated future tournaments, general impressions on the Finals venue, (Ford Field), and future first practice dates and first game dates.

The data provided to the committee demonstrated that the results of the 8-year expanded format were consistent from year to year when comparing school's classifications, enrollment breaks, and numbers of automatic qualifying schools. In 2003, 2004, and 2005, 242 and 243 and 243 schools respectively qualified automatically based on their regular season records. In 2006, 246 schools did the same. In 2005 and 2006, 35 and 36 games respectively were subjected to the playoff point differential rule. Enrollment ranges for the eight 2006 divisions were as follows: Division 1: 3194-1629, Division 2: 1604-1102, Division 3: 1091-841, Division 4: 841-633, Division 5: 629-459, Division 6: 456-345, Division 7: 337-102, and Division 8: 217-102.

Classification of schools by division for 2006 included the following: Division 1: 32 Class A schools, Division 2: 32 Class A schools, Division 3: 10 Class A, 22 Class B schools, Division 4: 32 Class B schools, Division 5: 30 Class B schools, 2 Class C schools, Division 6: 32 Class C schools, Division 7: 32 Class C schools, and Division 8: 4 Class C schools, 28 Class D schools.

In the Finals at Ford Field, eight finalists were No. 1 seeds at the Pre-District level, 6 were No. 2 seeds, and 1 was a No. 3 seed, and 1 was a No. 4 seed.

DISCUSSIONS

After a review of football starting dates, duration of season and other related statistics and data important to the Football Playoffs, discussions continued and included the following topics:

- Tournament information found in the August *Bulletin* and on the MHSAA Web site.
- Facilities used for Semifinal sites.
- Rules meeting dates and prospective sites.
- Preseason downtime.
- Summer dead period.
- Single-sport specific curricular classes.
- Junior high/middle school start date.

- National Federation 2007 rules changes and points of emphasis.
- Ford Field Review/Competing School Presale Tickets and Presale Ticket Share

FOOTBALL RULES AND SURVEY

The committee reviewed the latest National Federation rules changes and points of emphasis. Also, included in the materials reviewed were state association survey results on rule changes from last year. Observations on problems in other states and what rules, if any, should be considered for change was also presented/discussed. Presented for review was a general survey compiled by the National Federation looking at state association's format for various aspects of playoff football.

FUTURE FOOTBALL DATES

Year	Earliest Practice*	Earliest Game#	Labor Day (Games Before)
2007	Aug. 6	Aug. 24	Sept. 3 (2)
2008	Aug. 11	Aug. 28	Sept. 1 (1)
2009	Aug. 10	Aug. 28	Sept. 7 (2)
2010	Aug. 9	Aug. 27	Sept. 6 (2)
2011	Aug. 8	Aug. 26	Sept. 5 (2)
2012	Aug. 6	Aug. 23	Sept. 3 (2)

**whether or not play 1st week; 1st 3 days without pads; schools could start later
#schools could start later*

RULE CHANGES MADE BY THE 2007 NATIONAL FEDERATION FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

- Game administration shall place a 4-inch wide broken restraining line around the outside of the field at least six feet from the sidelines for on-field photographers.
- Beginning in 2012 visiting team jerseys must be white.
- Illegal helmet contact definition.
- Definition for a passer.
- If, during a touchdown scoring play in which there is no change of possession, a foul by the opponents of the scoring team occurs – the scoring team may accept the results of the play and enforcement from the succeeding spot or may choose to have the foul enforced on the ensuing kickoff.

NFHS POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- Uniform adornments such as armbands on upper arms/knee pads.
- Placement of waistbands.
- Low blocks by the defense on lead blockers.
- Sideline control and management.
- Disconcerting acts by the defense.

MICHIGAN POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- High school rules regarding intentional grounding.

PRESENTATION

The committee heard a presentation from Mr. Dave Farris, Football Coach at Boyne City High School and chair of the Political Action Committee for the Michigan Football Coaches Association.

The presentation shared results of a football coaches association survey sent to

schools that currently sponsor football to collect data on the opinions of football playing schools who might desire a multiplier system (increasing the enrollment) for non-public schools in the MHSAA Football Playoffs. The initial survey was sent in May of 2006 to 620 schools with a return of 170 participants. The survey was then sent to schools again to be returned in November with a combined response total of 385 schools. The committee discussed the issue at length including the similarity with numerous school of choice districts and non-public schools with respect to geographic boundaries. The committee voted to not advance the proposal to the Representative Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. A specific policy for when bands may play during MHSAA Football tournament games: Bands may play during the following times: Pregame, during any dead ball, halftime, end of game. Bands may play from the official's dead ball whistle until players break the huddle for traditional huddle offenses or to the official's whistle for ready-to-play when non-traditional / no-huddle offenses are used (23-0). ■

SOCCKER COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 8, 2006

Members Present:

Matt Boersma, Eaton Rapids
Sean Byrum, Gaylord
John Conlon, East Kentwood (MSCA)
Ken Erny, Fruitport
Dene Hadden, South Haven (MASSP)
Scott Kubit, Benzonia
Richard Niessen, Kalamazoo
Doris Pipkens, Holt
Susan Riksen, Gobles
Amy Rossow, Grosse Ile
Mike Roy, Vicksburg
Jeff Vennel, Bloomfield Hills

Betty Wroubel, Pontiac

Members Absent:

Jason Heerema, Wyoming
Sal Malek, Livonia
Jose Meija, Tecumseh
Joe Mendez, Lansing
Matt Sullivan, Fenton
Mike Vondette, Hemlock

Staff Members Present:

Tom Minter (Recorder)
Jamie VanDerMoere

The committee members introduced themselves and were reminded of the functions of the various MHSAA committees and of their relationship to the MHSAA. The new committee expense forms that now call for the agreement of the committee member on committee work product issues and on disclosure of individual committee member benefit from committee work were explained.

CLASSIFICATION SURVEY AND SEASONS LITIGATION UPDATE

Staff updated the Soccer Committee on the results of the survey of member schools which sponsor a boys and/or a girls soccer team. The survey asked for the preference of four equal divisions for MHSAA soccer tour-

naments or for the current system of classification wherein Division 4 comprises the bottom 20 percent of sponsoring schools based on their enrollment size with the remaining 80 percent divided equally among the remaining three divisions: 58 percent of all schools sponsoring a soccer team responded, and 59 percent of respondents favored the change to classification based on four equal divisions.

The committee was advised that the MHSAA has submitted its brief for an appeal of the sports seasons litigation decision to the US Supreme Court. If a decision adverse to the schools' current seasons is not received by June 1, 2007, both parties to the litigation have agreed that no changes in seasons will occur in the 2007-08 school year.

2006 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Representative Council's decisions on last year's committee's recommendations were reviewed.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WORKING VARSITY SOCCER GAMES AS ASSISTANT REFEREES

Correspondence from two conferences and from an officials association was received asking for an exception to MHSAA Handbook regulations to allow high school seniors to work varsity soccer matches as assistant referees. The scheduling difficulties and the shortage of officials in many areas of the state prompts this request. Concerns over seniors working with their peer group and criticism of these younger officials from fans, players, and coaches were expressed. The observation was made that the officials working these games tended to be the better officials from within their age group, were usually accompanied by experienced officials and had already been put on the game by assignors because of their competency in officiating the junior varsity game. By majority vote, the committee recommends to the Representative Council this change in MHSAA regulations.

CREATE FOUR EQUAL DIVISIONS FOR MHSAA SOCCER TOURNAMENTS

The results of the survey on this question were reviewed previously in the meeting. The committee was made aware of the conditions that resulted in soccer being allowed to be the only MHSAA sport with an "unequal" division concept. These conditions being that soccer was a team sport that was also a contact sport. Football and hockey being the only other MHSAA sports in this situation. The committee recommends to the Representative Council that the MHSAA soccer tournaments consist of 4 equal divisions.

CHANGE OF TOURNAMENT GAME TIMES BECAUSE OF TRAVEL

The committee reviewed the situation of competing teams travelling long distances or having school conflicts, requesting change to an earlier game time, but the request not allowed by the host site. Current regulations

have no specific dispute resolution mechanism. The recommendation is to have MHSAA staff mediate the request among the parties and ultimately make the final decision if no resolution among the involved parties can be made.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR DISPLAY OF RED CARD IS AN EJECTION

The committee reviewed the current MHSAA adoption that no ejection from the next day of competition is required for a player, bench personnel or coach that is shown a yellow card and a red card simultaneously for certain violations.

Currently a player or coach or bench personnel shown only a red card for flagrant action or misconduct is ejected from that contest and is ineligible for all remaining contests that day and the next day of competition.

The committee recommends that anytime a red card is displayed as any part of disciplinary action on a player, bench personnel, or coach that the penalties be as in the previous paragraph.

2007-08 NFHS RULES CHANGES

National Federation Soccer Rules Committee member Amy Rossow led the committee in a review of the high school soccer rules and editorial changes made at the recent NF Soccer Rules Committee January 2007 meeting. Most revisions were of a minor nature. A significant revision is the decision to delay implementation of the new standards for shin guards from the 2007-08 school year until 2008-09. Manufacturers were not able to readily provide players with the legal shin guards.

HOME GAME OPTION FOR DISTRICT HOSTS PLAYING IN FIRST ROUND

Currently a District host school receives no special consideration in the draw for first-round home teams and could be a visiting team in the first round. If not drawing a bye in the first round, the request of a member school to then automatically be a host for a first-round game was reviewed. The committee declined to take any position on this request at this time.

MANDATORY MOUTH GUARDS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC SOCCER GAMES

Letters between the Executive Director and a registered dental hygienist about mandating the wearing of mouth guards while playing an interscholastic sport where risks of dental and/or craniofacial injuries are present were reviewed. No communication to the MHSAA by member schools was reported on the issue. No action was taken on the question

LENGTH OF BOYS SOCCER SEASON

Fall 2006 was the first year of playing under a shorter season wherein the MHSAA tournament finals are now fixed at the first Saturday in November with the first allowed competition date allowed to be 4 days earlier than previous policy. An email received from a coach concerned about the shorter season length particularly the changes between first practice dates and first competition date was made available to the committee. Several committee members voiced similar concerns to those expressed in the email. The committee recommends that the MHSAA survey its member schools sponsoring soccer to determine their positions on the issues raised in the email. The coaches association president indicated he would have a similar survey conducted of the high school soccer coaches.

TIMEOUTS DURING HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER GAMES

The committee discussed a member's proposal to allow a coach the opportunity to call a "timeout" during the game. After discussion, no action was taken on the proposal.

OFFICIALS CONFERENCE WITH BOTH COACHES

A committee member's proposal to have a half time discussion between the Referee and the Head Coach of each team was discussed, but no specific recommendation was chosen at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Change 2006-07 *Handbook* Interpretation 164 to allow a 12th-grade student who is 17 years of age or older to work high school varsity soccer games but only as an Assistant Referee (8-5).
2. Reclassify the MHSAA Soccer Tournament into four equal divisions (10-3).
3. Authorize MHSAA staff to make the final decision to change times of soccer tournament games when resolution of game time issues cannot be resolved by the competing schools and the host site (13-0).
4. Stipulate that when the disciplinary action against a player, coach or bench personnel involves the display of a yellow and a red card simultaneously, the penalty for the infractions shall be increased to include a next day of competition suspension (11-2).
5. Request the MHSAA to survey member schools sponsoring soccer to see if the changes to the 2006-07 seasons address the committee's concerns over the shorter time between the start of practice and the first allowed competition and the reduced time available for regular season contests (13-0). ■

BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 9, 2007

Members Present:

Kevin Akin, Alma
Mel Atkins, Grand Rapids
Tom Beals, Parchment
Mitch Bohn, Sanford
Fred Bowers, Waldron
Tony Burton, Brown City
Teresa Cole, Mio
Ken Dietz, Watervliet
Leroy Hackley, Jenison
Joe Haines, Grand Rapids
John Horrigan, Cadillac
Cody Inglis, Suttons Bay
Fred Jones, Battle Creek
Rich Kimball, Jackson
Karen Leinaar, Benzonia
Brian Macomber, Rockford
Glen Metcalf, Muskegon Heights
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Jim Noble, Saginaw
Pat Richardson, Grass Lake
Tracy Richardson, Gibraltar

Chris Riker, Portage
Jan Sander, Warren
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor
Marshall Thomas, Saginaw
Mario Villarreal, Lansing
Mike Vondette, Hemlock
Robert Wright, Sand Creek

Members Absent:

Lafayette Evans, Detroit
Jamie Foster, Flint
Dewayne Jones, West Bloomfield
Bruce Lenington, Lathrup Village
Bruce Mann, Webberville

Staff Members Present:

Andy Frushour
Nate Hampton
Tom Minter
Mark Uyl
Faye Verellen

The Committee was presented with the entire list of approved officials in Boys Basketball who had completed availability form and attended an MHSAA rules meeting in the fall. Assignments were made for the tournament on the basis of recommendations, ratings average, members in good standing of Approved Associations and availability of the officials.

RATINGS

Minimal ratings required included 2.1 for Final officials; 2.5 for Semifinal and Quarterfinal officials; 2.7 for Regional and District officials. Officials recommended by two or more leagues/conferences and/or officials associations qualified to the next rating level.

TOURNAMENT INVITATIONS

All officials selected at each tournament level will be sent "Tournament Invitation" forms from the MHSAA. At Regional Tournaments, officials work one date/game of the tournament.

OFFICIALS AVAILABILITY

832 officials indicated their availability for tournament assignments. Of this number, 768 were assigned to the 2006-07 Districts. Regional assignments for officials totaled 288. 48 officials were selected to work the Quarterfinal games; 24 officials were selected to work Semifinal contests and 12 in the Final Games. ■

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